WORLD / A20
Murdoch takes over Dow Jones/Wall Street Journal for $5B

NEWS / A2
SC dishars PBA commissioner Noli Eala for adultery

NEWS / A2
High court asked to nullify $130-M broadband deal

NEWS / A6
No classes for high school, college students nationwide Aug. 3 to allow them to register for barangay polls

Task force formed vs investment scams

By Michael Lim Ubac and Tina G. Santos

ALARMED BY THE REVERSAL OF the $10-billion scams in the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo has created a task force to protect Filipinos against unknown fraudulent investment schemes.

Under Administrative Order No. 185 dated July

CONTINUED ON A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, August 2, 2007 44 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 235 P18 www.inquirer.net

GMA names CA chief Ruben Reyes to SC

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS appointed Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ruben Reyes to the vacant slot in the Supreme Court, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said last night in a text message.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita confirmed the appointment during the regular press briefing

CONTINUED ON A2

FM Jr., gov't win 1st round

Lucio Tan lawyer fails to block his testimony

By Doxie L. Lucot and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LAWYER OF LUCIO C. TAN yesterday failed to convince the Sandiganbayan to prevent Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. from testifying on the government's behalf in its forfeiture case against the controversial Chinese-Filipino businessman.

Heading a small crowd to the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Sandiganbayan Justice Ma. Cristina Cortez Estoesta ruled that the son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos could help move the case forward with his testimony.

"We would like to hear his testimony," she said at the end of the lengthy debates between lawyers for the PCGG and Tan. "We want to get the whole picture."

Earlier in the afternoon, Bongbong was sworn in, took the wit-

PAGE A4

A.M.: Bongbong Marcos gives an oath before Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Ma. Cristina Cortez Estoesta as he testifies on the government's behalf in the forfeiture case against businessman Lucio Tan. | Photo by Richard Garcia, Page 02 |

...P.M.: Bongbong Marcos goes to the Sandiganbayan to testify against Lucio Tan on behalf of the government.

Watchdog to gov't: Where's big fish?

By Kristine L. Alave

"WHERE'S THE BIG FISH?" WAS THE figurative question leveled by anticorruption experts at the Commission on Audit (COA), which yesterday declared that the son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos could help move the case forward with his testimony.

"We would like to hear his testimony," she said at the end of the lengthy debates between lawyers for the PCGG and Tan. "We want to get the whole picture."

Earlier in the afternoon, Bongbong was sworn in, took the wit-

PAGE A4

Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN), said yesterday.

He also said only 28 bodies traded in Forex on the usual list. "We are not seeing even [minor] recoveries, much less [substantial] and [recurrent figuring prominently]."

Lacierda said he mainly was based on the findings of the TAN's state of corruption report, which is what she/he referred to as low worth.

The report contains the results of the group's study of several government agencies.

At a presentation on Tuesday of the In-

PAGE A4

telligence Academy of the Philippines, Lacierda and DAP senior fellow Segundo Romero summarized the number of government projects that they claimed, were "done with no kickback."

Romero cited the $300-million Extensor Broadband deal between the Philippine and Chinese governments as one of the "tainted-ass" projects.

Lacierda claimed the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jappa) as a deal that was forged under less-than-transparent conditions. He said that during negotiations on the agree-

SEE ALSO PAGE A4

Hillary's cleavage splits Washington

WASHINGTON—HILLARY Clinton's cleavage has suddenly burst into one of the hottest topics of the Clinton-Obama presidential race.

The normally very conservative Internet—slightly less so when fueling a July 18 campaign debate—erupted.

Several celebrity sites carried it as fact, and if Washington Post fashion writer Robin Givhan took notice and branded it a

HILLARY'S A#1

Why have sex? Researchers count 237 ways

WASHINGTON—AFTER DECADES of methodically compiling a list of the 237 reasons why people have sex, researchers found that voting more and women get laid need to be mostly the same motivations.

It's more about lust or the

MAIN WARRANTS A#1

KL refuses to sign declaration on migrant workers

By Rob Cabreros

WHAT HAS BEEN HAILED AS A landmark declaration covering the welfare of migrant workers in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has hit a bump on the road.

Malaysia, host to large numbers of so-called "illegal migrants" from neighboring countries, has deferred signing a forthcoming document that would have elevated the declaration to a more "legally binding" arrangement, sources told The Inquirer at the sidelines of the dozen ministerial talks in Manila.

The sources said this was the reason the scheduled signing ceremony for the document—originally set on Monday as a highlight of the 40th Asean Ministers of Meeting (AMM)—was postponed.

Instead, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, in chair of the AMM at the Philippine International Convention Center, merely announced later in the day that the document was "adopted" by the 10 member-states.

There is no easily missed yet

PAGE A4

crucial difference between having a document signed by the member-countries and just having it "adopted" by the body, explained one official, who declined to be identified for lack of authority to speak on the matter.

"When left unsigned, the binding effect of the document is watered down," the official noted.

The document was officially called the Instrument on the Establishment of the Asean Committee on the Declaration of the Protection and Promotion of the Migrant Workers.

The signing that never was at the AMM was supposed to mark a historical movement since Asean heads of state signed the Declaration during the leaders' summit

ALSO PAGE A4

Three women love, forgive fallen Marine

By Christine O. Avendaño

A LOVING HEART IS A FORGIVING heart. That was the message three women sent out yesterday when they attended a reunion/meeting with their fallen hero.

When inside the three women unique among all the others at the ceremony was that they loved the same man—Marine Cpl. Rodel Nasaga, one of the 10 Marines beheaded by bandits after an ambush on Basilan stand on July 21.

The three were Nasaga's wife, Marlou, 28, of Iriga, Bicol, and Nasaga's two other women, Marichel Bencoco, 31, of Sorsogon, and Yvonne Duque, 27, of Davao City.

The military held the ceremony to award scholarships to the children of the soldiers.

Of the three women, Marlou

THREE WOMEN A2

Basilan suspects reduced from 127 to 10

NO ONE HOME. Police Director Magtanggol Sulit (left) and government forces found and freed 10 hostages in Sumisip, Basilan, on Monday with about 200 heavily armed policemen to arrest the suspects—alluding to MILF rebels—in the killing of 14 Marines. But they found the rebels' lair empty and all 6,000 residents gone.

By John Aizaah and Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao and Norman Bordadora in Manila

INVESTIGATORS YESTERDAY cut down from 127 to "less than 10" the number of suspects in the beheading of Marines on Basilan island, and the military and police were under orders for the arrest of those suspects.

A total cancel looking into the July 10 ambush which resulted in the killing of 14 Marines complement of 10 in the initial hours of a widening dragnet of the military launched an offensive against those responsible. Ten of the Marines were beheaded.

"I am satisfied with the result so far [probe]," Gen. Al Mey, the MILF's spokesperson, told the Inquirer. "Although I haven't seen and read the contents of the report, other members told me the list of suspects is now reduced."

It appears that there are no MILF members exposed in the

BASILAN A2

Second FRONTPAGE

DEC 4 30 | 6 1 8 4
Wednesday, 5 8 5 | 9 6 4
MEGALOTTO 6/45
8 13 34 37 38 45
PCSO, 105,768.20

WEATHER FORECAST

SC asked to void NBN deal

By Leila B. Salaverria

SUPPLICE—with his petition

DESPITE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT's upholding the validity of the government's $330-million broadband deal with China's ZTE Corp., Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico has asked the Supreme Court to nullify the contract for being unconstitutional and to stop its implementation.

In a taxpayer's suit, Suplico claimed that the deal only benefited certain officials from China's Hunan province who stood to gain through "rigged arbitration proceedings."

He said it violated the procurement law and the build-operate-transfer law, both of which require public bidding, and the Telecommunications Policy Act 1995 that requires the privatization of all government-owned telecom facilities.

Suplico said he was bringing the issue to the Supreme Court "because it would be frustrating" for him to file a petition for certiorari before the Court of Appeals.

He said he respected the justice department's decision to uphold the validity of the deal that involves the setting up of a national broadband network to connect all state-run national government agencies through the Internet. The project is to be funded by a government-to-government loan from China which designated the ZTE Corp. as the prime contractor.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on July 26 issued an opinion that the contract was overwhelmingly favorable to the government and did not need to go through a public bidding.

Gonzalez said the procurement guidelines of the foreign lending institutions could apply in the project as there are no implementing rules and guidelines as yet for foreign-funded procurements.

The opinion was issued in response to request of Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza who asked if the deal could be considered as one inter-agency.

The deal is covered by a memorandum of agreement between Trade Secretary Peter Favila and ZTE Corp. and an exchange of notes between the Chinese and Philippine governments.

Suplico has also asked the Supreme Court to direct the government to produce the contract for examination in camera (documentation done in private). Some parts were deleted from the contract, which was signed in China, per Joe in a Chinese hotel room and could not be reconstituted.

Suplico said documents he did was the reason behind the "destruction" of Romulo Neri that—despite the protest of the National Economic Development Authority—he head of the Commission on Higher Education. He said Neri's stand was that the government should not signed for the project.

Among the respondents in his petition are Hun. Mendoza, Chairperson Ramon Isidro of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology and ZTE Corp.

In his petition, Suplico said the deal with ZTE would require that the government spend about P15 billion, when it could let the private sector shoulder the cost of putting up a nationwide broadband network.

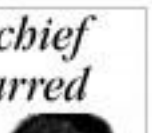
He said that under Executive Order No. 269, the national broadband project (NBP) was intended to be funded by the private sector and by BOT mechanisms so that the government would not need to shoulder any money.

"It is just unfair that the respondents would cave parks to afford preferential treatment to respondent ZTE Corp., an admittedly foreign-registered company, with a constituent clear that 'Squares the National Treasury to incur unlimited liens in the amount of approximately $300 million,'" he said.

Suplico cited the unsolicited proposal from Amsterdam Holdings Inc., which he said was submitted with government guarantees on the funding and maintenance of the NBP project. The AHI has proposed to build the NBN without government funding or sovereign guarantees.

PBA chief disbarred

By Leila B. Salaverria



GMA

Granted earlier extraordinary

PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL Association Commissioner Jose Emmanuel "Noli" Eala has lost his right to practice law because of carrying on an extramarital affair with a married woman, documented through a love letter sent on her wedding day.

The Supreme Court on June disbarred Eala for grossly immoral conduct and violation of his oath of office and the Code of Professional Responsibility, acting on the complaint filed by the woman's husband.

Eala, who is in Japan, refused to make any comment when interviewed by the Japanese assistant sports editor Peliodo Dollesi, who is covering the Phil-Am Team Basketball championship in Yokohama.

Efforts to get interview with PBA chairman Ricky Vargas, who reportedly arrived last night from Yokohama, proved futile.

But a PBA board member, who was also with the Philippine team in Japan said the decision reflected effect Eala's term as commissioner. He noted that Eala had informed the PBA board of his legal problems when he was commissioner for the commissioner's job four years ago.

It was during the PBA's search for a commissioner to replace the late Jun Bernardino that Chief Justice Hilario Davide came to court.

Disrespect for institution

In carrying on an extramarital affair with the married woman, Eala "showed disrespect for an institution held sacred by the law, the family," the Supreme Court said.

"Respect for marriage was first bred before the fair-grained line of the Philippines. The investigating commissioner recommended Eala's disbarment. Jose Bautista, commissioner was overruled by the IBP Board of Governors.

The complainant then elevated the case to the Supreme Court.

According to the high court, Eala did not deny that his actions caused his relationship with his wife to deteriorate.

Eala's letter to the woman, which was read in court, was filled with romantic words.

"I am missing you so much and I'm counting the days when I can see you again," he said in the letter.

"I hope you have been enjoying your honeymoon and I hope you are happy. I know you are having fun. I'm sure you are having a great time. I'm sure you are enjoying your honeymoon. I'm sure you are having a great time. I'm sure you are enjoying your honeymoon."

Eala also vowed to treat the woman "until we are together again."

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
AIA TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT
AUGUST 18, 19, 20 & 21 4-DAY Public Auction
AUGUST 03, 23, 24 & 25, 2007

QUALITY TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU !
www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Lower Wau Cang, Angeles (Hi-way), Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

Allies defend Mikey, Iggy

By Christian V. Esguerra and Doris Pazzibugan

HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER ARTHUR DEFENSOR yesterday justified the appointment of President Macapagal-Arroyo's close relatives to key congressional committees as being in line with the goal of establishing a good working relationship between the executive and legislative branches.

Defensor said Deputy Majority Leader Faustino Dy III secured a post chairmanship yesterday—defending the majority's choice of Rep. Jose Miguel Arroyo, the President's son, to chair of the energy committee and Ilin Arroyo's brother-in-law, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, as chair of transportation committee.

Defensor said that while the last lawmakers' relationship with the President may have been one of the factors that influenced Speaker Jose de Venecia to recommend their appointments, he believed this was not the only reason.

"This leadership of the Speaker needs to have a very close working relationship between the executive and the legislature to ensure that it translates to effective and efficient legislative programs," he said.

As for another Arroyo son, Rep. Dodoi in Cruz, Defensor said the majority has yet to decide whether to put the Camiguin lone lawmaker

'Give us a chance'

But he said the younger Arroyo would not be getting a chairmanship as committee assignments are governed by seniority from batch-to-batch consideration.

Ignacio Arroyo yesterday asked critics to give him and his nephew a chance to prove their worth to committee duties.

"We haven't assumed our positions and we haven't performed yet, but they're already criticizing us," he said in a phone interview.

At the Senate, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, 65, a dear ally of Mr. Arroyo, defended the appointments through the oral rush plans assignments for members of the First Family could be viewed as "unethical and immoral."

However, Santiago—said the appointments do not necessarily constitute nepotism as the relatives also hold officials.

"It does not fall under the purview of the law under nepotism. Election to the legislature is not governed by the anti-nepotism law," said Santiago, adding that some Senators, including Jr. is a member party-list congressmen.

"Just considered, the anti-nepotism is not point of view, there is no violation. However critics would say that this is unethical and immoral. It deserves to be under question," she said.

This is in addition of existing relatives between Arroyo and the other of close family ties and Santiago, arising from the House majority chose to elect the major committees in the session.

Party-list representative Teodoro Casiño, who first questioned the Arroyo's election as a plenary session last Monday, insisted on the issue would pose the committee on energy and natural resources to provide a "check and balance."

Casiño said he was also concerned with some of the government watchdog groups in the environment and power sectors, which he claimed have been created to monitor Jim Ong's energy committee performance.

GMA to host regular 'socials' with senators

By Sid C. Cabuenga Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo will hold regular get-togethers in Malacañang with administration senators in a bid to establish their ties with the Senate despite the senate deadlock between Pres. Juan Ponce Enrile and Senate President Manuel Villar, who is seeking the Presidency in Tuesday's elections.

Efforts to get interview with PBA chairman Ricky Vargas, who reportedly arrived last night from Yokohama, proved futile.

But a PBA board member, who was also with the Philippine team in Japan said the decision reflected effect Eala's term as commissioner. He noted that Eala had informed the PBA board of his legal problems when he was commissioner for the commissioner's job four years ago.

It was during the PBA's search for a commissioner to replace the late Jun Bernardino that Chief Justice Hilario Davide came to court.

Disrespect for institution

In carrying on an extramarital affair with the married woman, Eala "showed disrespect for an institution held sacred by the law, the family," the Supreme Court said.

"Respect for marriage was first bred before the fair-grained line of the Philippines. The investigating commissioner recommended Eala's disbarment. Jose Bautista, commissioner was overruled by the IBP Board of Governors.

The complainant then elevated the case to the Supreme Court.

According to the high court, Eala did not deny that his actions caused his relationship with his wife to deteriorate.

Eala's letter to the woman, which was read in court, was filled with romantic words.

"I am missing you so much and I'm counting the days when I can see you again," he said in the letter.

"I hope you have been enjoying your honeymoon and I hope you are happy. I know you are having fun. I'm sure you are having a great time. I'm sure you are enjoying your honeymoon. I'm sure you are having a great time. I'm sure you are enjoying your honeymoon."

Eala also vowed to treat the woman "until we are together again."

Customs to auction smuggled fuel today

THE BUREAU OF Customs will auction today about 40 tanker lorries of petroleum products seized from a fuel depot in Muntinlupa. Its commissioner earned allegedly smuggled shorts into the country three years ago.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said that auction would help to get off it Oil Link depot the government P925 million in assessed taxed duty, excise and penalties.

"They have to make restitution to the government and we need to collect the amount as part of our restructuring duties," Morales told the Inquirer over the phone.

Morales said he was Oil Link a final letter dated July 27, giving the firm seven days to make the payment. In the meantime, the bureau stopped the operations of Oil Link's depot in Muntinlupa and sealed its oil pumps.

Solid evidence

The Commissioner said the bureau, after an audit in September 2004, found out that a vessel owned by Oil Link's incorporators had smuggled four shipments of oil, with each shipment worth P90 million.

The audit showed that two tankers were confiscated for the bills of lading—or supporting documents—for the four shipments, he said.

"It took us about three years to build the case. We were asked help from the South Korean customs office and our National Intelligence Coordinating Agency so that we can have solid evidence that they really were smuggling," Morales said.

The firm's tax delinquency was assessed at P925 million in 2004, but this has ballooned to P925 million because of penalties, Jovenico Zuño

FM Jr., gov't win 1st round but testimony delayed

To next page A-2

sions were used, but was unable to rest, ally to the arguments among lawyers crammed the court's tiny.

Correa-Estacio swabbed Bengbong's testimony in Aug. 21 and 22.

From the outset, Tan's counsel, Estelito Mendoza, acted to prevent the antigraft court from hearing the testimony by asserting that the Sandiganbayan was an inappropriate venue for the younger Marcos' claim.

Bengbong has refused to present — and to allow his companies to set up and via documents — that 40 percent of Tan's corporate holdings belonged to his late father.

The companies covered by the PCGG claim are Fortune Tobacco Corp., Basic Industry Corp., Investment Farms, Rimmel Industries Inc., Symbiosys Development Corp., Hiraman Holdings Inc., Dominion Realty and Construction Corp. and Shareholdings Inc.

The PCGG believes that these claims it. If it succeeds in proving that [the companies are] theirs [Marcoses], the PCGG will have to go after them," Arroyo said.

It was Arroyo who helped craft Executive Order No. 1 that created the PCGG in 1986 to go after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses estimated at $10 billion.

The PCGG was so far recovered more than $1 billion of the stolen wealth of Marcos and his cronies, including part of his Swiss bank deposits.

Mendoza noted that EO1 specifically mandated the agency to go after the assets of the Marcos family and their cronies that were acquired using public funds.

It has not been determined that Tan's companies were acquired using public funds, Mendoza said.

Bengbong unable to give info

He added that the testimony would only be relevant if the government would prove that the late strongman acquired the tycoon's assets using government funds.

PCGG lawyers Catalino Doroni-

la Jr. countered that the government had already won a similar case, successfully acquiring control of shares of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which were also said to have been held in trust by business partners of the late dictator.

Deed of assignment

Generillo revealed that Bengbong had in his possession a deed of assignment that detailed how the assets of the former President and Tan were put under Shareholdings Inc. which, in turn, had more holding firms, Supreme Holdings and Silicon Holdings.

"He is in possession of this deed of assignment where [the ownership] of Silicon and Supreme Holdings was transferred to unnamed persons," the PCGG lawyer said. Bengbong had still nearly four shareholdings Inc. was used as a corporate vehicle to consolidate all assets of Marcos and Tan, Generillo said.

Like admitting to bribery

Mendoza was unfazed by the

Tan camp's failure to block the interviewing, saying he doubted whether the younger Marcos would allow Bengbong to testify because the assets of his father were acquired illegally.

"I don't think he will testify to the PCGG's claim that these assets were given by Marcos to Tan in exchange for favors," the veteran lawyer said. "That will be [admitting] bribery."

The Constitution also prevents the President from engaging in business, according to Mendoza.

"[Bengbong] would have to admit that his father violated the Constitution," Mendoza said. "Tan remains the man's top client."

Fond of making deals

Arroyo would have nothing to do with the present maneuvers of the PCGG.

"This is a hopeless PCGG. It has no brains or nothing. It has outlived its usefulness," he said.

Arroyo questioned the PCGG's preference to settle deals with the Marcoses rather than pursue the cases against them.

"Prudence dictates it should be transparent. The present PCGG is fond of making deals as if it has been empowered to make deals. It is very convenient to go after ill-gotten wealth not to create deals," he said.

Arroyo said what the PCGG was doing was never conceived when EO1 was issued.

"Twenty-one years after, it is still causing confusion when it is addressing," he said.

Unholy alliance

The militant Gibayang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (GMP) also reacted sarcastically against the alliance between the PCGG and the sons of the late dictator.

Willy Marbella, national deputy secretary general of GMP, said "This is truly an unholy alliance between volunteers of a free country and the lackeys of the present one."

"Essentially this is a dictator-to-dictator relationship designed to save/spare the old dictator and his relatives from their crimes and further enrich the new ones," he said.

Watchdog to gov't: Where's big fish? What about Lintang Bedol?

To next page A-2

Palace denies big-time graft on the rise

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG DENIED YESterday that big-time graft runs on the rise, saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo had issued a number of administrative orders to cut red tape in the bureaucracy.

The president of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) himself claimed that the report published yesterday in the business was "out of context."

At a briefing in the Palace, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in behalf of DAP president Emmanuel Bautista Jr. to explain what DAP senior fellow Segundo Romero said when he presented on Tuesday the studies made by the first batch of the academy's undergraduate course.

He had also said election was "the mother of all corruption."

Ermita sought to clarify this, saying: "The attribution that big-time graft is on the rise" has been taken out of context. What was said is that joint efforts of different stakeholders ... had decimated the incidence of bureaucratic corruption."

He said the message that the DAP fellow was trying to get to the public was that "serious concerted efforts of the government, the private sector, civil society, the academe and the international community, are already making a difference with regard to addressing the issue of graft and corruption."

"This review on corruption prevention is just one of many initiatives taken by different stakeholders, more especially the oversight agencies of government, are not jointly addressing," he said.

Ermita said the occasion to refute the statement was "supposed to have been said" was the graduation ceremony preceding the graduation of the first batch of students in the certificate course in Corruption Prevention, who came from various government agencies.

The program is being implemented with the support of the Rule of Law Effectiveness project of USAID in partnership with the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, he said.

Ermita said the course provided government managers "the necessary knowledge, attitude and skills" to develop and implement corruption prevention reforms in their respective agencies.

"One of the responsibilities of the course is for the graduates to develop and implement a double anti-corruption project where they go back to their institutions with the support of their respective agency management," he said.

Anti-red tape task force

Ermita said the President was "fighting corruption" through "a series of measures."

One such directive, he said, was Executive Order No. 237 issued on Aug. 8, 2000, which established an anti-red tape task force chaired by Trade Secretary Peter Favila.

Ermita said Favila considered the task force "a work in progress."

The President also issued Memorandum Order No. 220 directing all departments, bureaus, commissions, agencies and offices "to improve transaction cues and flows in order to enhance Philippine competitiveness."

Ermita said Congress also enacted Republic Act No. 9485 aimed at improving efficiency in the delivery of government service in the public by reducing bureaucratic red tape.

"You can rest assured that this matter is being handled and addressed by the administration head on. I would draw in many of our Cabinet meetings, the President was very very keen in asking the Cabinet members to ensure that red tape is cut," he said.

Burden of proof

But according to Romero, "the burden of proof should be on the officials who should show the contrary."

He said it would be difficult for them to present clear because government agencies were loath to release information and documents, in the first place.

"You are looking at the two wraps. It's like seeing the tip of the iceberg," he said. "All that we are working is transparency."

Lazatin also said the Office of the Ombudsman should show the number of officials it investigated and prosecuted in the past year.

In her recent State of the Nation Address, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the Ombudsman had a conviction rate of 77 percent—a claim that the 2001 notified at said doesn't be sustained."

"How many cases are they filing? What proof do they have that [graft] is going down? What levels?" Lazatin said, adding that they had never seen the government figures.

"The highest rate I have seen is 2000, 2000. It was 33 percent," he said.

Confidential, centralized

Lazatin and Romero again extolled the supposed atmosphere of confidentiality under the Arroyo administration.

They said this environment was making it easier for high-level officials to conduct shady dealings and funnel money from contracts, and diverting them investigations of erring officials.

Lazatin said that in the Office of the Ombudsman, for instance, all cases, even those involving P1 million and below, had to go through the central office in Manila. He said that during Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's time, such cases were heard and resolved by regional divisions.

"Everything is centralized now. The resolution of cases has slowed down," he said.

Lazatin compared Mr. Arroyo to Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos and Estrada, who is being criticized for extending the limits of presidential power and for ordering his lieutenants not to testify in congressional hearings.

In the Philippines, he pointed out, ranking government officials answer to congressional inquiries and hearings without Mr. Arroyo's permission.

"There are many restrictions between the two Presidents in that regard. [Mr. Arroyo is] pushing the envelope toward recovery and consolidating," Lazatin said. With a report from Norman Bordadora

GMA names CA chief Ruben Reyes to Supreme Court

To next page A-2

conflict in the dog fest and the papers had yet to reach his desk.

"I don't see there will be an appointment crisis. Maybe there's something signed already by the President but it has not reached my office. Once we have that ... you can be sure that somebody may have already been chosen. Maybe it's just a matter of hours. It's not more than 24 hours," Ermita said.

Asked about reservations that Reyes was ill, Ermita assured, edged that he was on the short list submitted to Mr. Arroyo by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC).

Considering that he is the presiding justice, people are saying, 'Bigyan siya ng sign [It might be him].' But I can't tell you, it's my prerogative that as soon I receive instructions from the President on the matter, I'll make a mid-reports.

According to the retired justice who both asked not to be named because of the sensitive nature of the subject, Reyes has exceeded the age limit set by the high court, and is no longer qualified to assume the post vacated by Associate Justice Romeo Callejo Sr. who will be retired on April 10 upon reaching 70.

Malacañang earlier softened embarrassment with its appointment of Sandiganbayan Justice Gregory Ong to the high court. It later withdrew the appointment over question of Ong's citizenship.

'Power behind the throne'

Under JBC rules, current applicants who may not be able to serve for at least one and a half years before reaching the age of retirement may not be considered for nomination.

Reyes, who was born on Jan. 5, 1939, in Hagonoy, Bulacan, turns 70 in 2009.

A four-time nominee to the high court, Reyes is a "key nominee" in the original JBC list that also considered Ong's name, one of the justices said.

Before yesterday's announcement, the Presidency younger officials referred to "Noboy" Abaya, not Reyes, as the "real" power behind the throne," said Reyes, according to the source.

Malacañang has been described by his friends as the "power behind the throne," and Reyes is seen as a friend of Malacañang, according to another source.

"They want someone who will toe the line" after the defeat last year of the people's initiative aimed at changing the form of government into a parliamentary system, one of the critics justices said.

Justice Antonio Carpio, a former JBC member, is reported to oppose the decision that derailed the initiative, laying the groundwork for the eventual death of the Charter change drive in the House of Representatives.

His problems

But according to Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez, the tribunal has yet to receive an announcement on its newest member.

Asked if the statement on Reyes' supposedly being unqualified for the post, Marquez said that when the JBC nominated the latter in May, he still had more than one and a half years left to the service.

Post, Marquez said, Reyes' appointment as the high court would face no problem.

But if Mr. Arroyo asks the JBC to come up with a new list of nominees, Reyes cannot be considered anymore because he already has less than one and a half years to go before retirement, Marquez said.

Marquez also said the high court respected Mr. Arroyo's to name a new justice soon.

The Constitution states that the President has 90 days to name a new justice of the Supreme Court.

Marquez would not appointing a new justice after "a considerable period" could be considered "a culpable violation of the Constitution."

However, he said, the 90-day period might not exactly apply in this case because Mr. Arroyo had named Ong in the meantime—although the appointment fell through because of questions about the latter's status as a natural-born Filipino.

Even the Supreme Court justices have been mum on having Ong take his place among them.

Ermita said the President would have to choose the new justice from "the remaining list that was submitted by the JBC which the name of Justice Ong appeared before."

Told about the age limit, he said Mr. Arroyo would rely on the recommendations of the JBC.

"The nomination for [the post of] associate justice of the Supreme Court is gone over by the JBC, [which] is chaired by the Chief Justice himself," Ermita said, adding:

"I would like to assume that the members of the JBC know these requirements, and therefore they are not going to submit names that [do not meet these] requirements ...."

Credentials

"The President just has to exercise her authority and power to appoint from the list submitted by the JBC."

Reyes studied law as a working student.

A 1962 alumnus of Manuel Luis Quezon University, he has taken night courses courses in the University of Santo, including the first Harvard Law School "Bridging the Gap" Program for Lawyers from the Appellate Judges Seminar at such institutions as the Academy of American and International Law, California Judicial College and National Judicial College.

After a 10-year law practice, he was named municipal judge of Manila, and later became Regional Trial Court judge first in Bulacan then in Manila, where he became an Outstanding RTC Judge awardee, and an RTC Judges Association president.

He was promoted to the Court of Appeals in March 1994 and became its presiding justice on Dec. 23, 2003.

Reyes was president of the Philippine Association of Law Professors, trustee and lecturer of the Philippine Judicial Academy 2002, chair-examiner in legal ethics, trustee of the Bar Reviewers on Special Penal Laws, member of the Supreme Court's committee on legal education and bar matters, and committee person in criminal procedure and trustee of the University of the Philippine Law Center.

He has been named Outstanding Justice of the Court of Appeals and Bulacan in

No HS, college classes tomorrow

MALACAÑANG has declared Aug. 3 a special holiday for high school and college students all over the country to allow them to register or to serve voters for the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections on October.

Proclamation 1345, released by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday, said the registration on Aug. 4 and 5 would mean high school and college students would be between 15 and 17 years old by Oct. 30.

The proclamation said that despite the Aug. 4 and 5 registration days, Aug. 3 was declared a holiday because "majority of the Filipino youth who would register by the barangay and SK elections would need ample time to travel to their home provinces, cities or municipalities where they reside."

The Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority are directed to help supervise the implementation of the proclamation, Ermita said.

US assures Asean of its commitment

DESPITE THE NO-SHOW OF US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at an annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the United States assured its partners yesterday that it is committed to the region and applauded the group for promoting democracy in its fold's charter.

"The United States considers its relations with Asean as a critical component of its dealings with East Asia as a whole," Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte told the foreign ministers of the 10-member group.

He said that Rice, who is traveling with Defense Secretary Robert Gates to the Middle East, regretted that she was not able to attend the meetings in Manila. He assured the ministers that Asean is on Washington's agenda, saying: "My message today is that our engagement in this part of the world is strong, and we are committed to deepening our ties even further in the time ahead."

Voice of interest

Foreign Minister George Yeo of Singapore, which is taking over Asean's rotating chairmanship from the Philippines this week, said the region "fully understands why she can't be with us here. She have a vested interest in her success."

"There are challenging times that we live in, and US leadership is critical," he added. "The duties US ambassadors to Asean perform in the regional architecture, for duties, this partnership is crucial for the balance of the evolving geopolitical structure."

China, an Asean dialogue partner now negotiating with Japan and South Korea, has been expanding its economic, political and military clout in the region. Washington has also expressed concern over its military spending build-up, and repeatedly urged Beijing to be more transparent.

Yet said US investments and markets—two-way trade with Asean reached $160 billion last year—have helped Asia's rapid growth.

Negroponte said Washington was not only interested in Asia's economy but democracy as well.

New charter

He lauded the inclusion of democratic values, good governance, the rule of law and human rights in a draft of a new Asean charter, which is expected to be signed by leaders at a summit in Singapore in November.

"The time when Asean is principally a meeting table is in support of democracy," he said.

Also yesterday, US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill assured Asean ministers of Washington's continued commitment to the diplomatic and peaceful solution of the Korean nuclear issue.

Hill briefed Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo on developments on the Six-Party talks on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

"We join the international community in hoping for a peaceful and meaningful resolution to this issue," Romulo conveyed to Hill. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana, AP

US DEPUTY Secretary of State John Negroponte calls on President Arroyo on Tuesday night. Negroponte was in the country for the 40th Asean ministerial meeting. Malacañang photo

ASEAN HIGHLIGHTS

Forum to check spread of weapons of mass destruction

ASEAN SOUGHT SECURITY PARTNERS like detailed US efforts to create a new group to help prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, officials said yesterday.

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum supported the formation of the body after it was proposed by a group of countries including the United States and Indonesia, said ASEAN chief, an ASEAN official.

ARF, which consists of the 10 members Asean and 17 other countries, is holding its annual meeting today. However, lower-level officials began discussing the terms of reference for the new body at the foreign ministers' body yesterday, Ithad said.

"Although we agreed to set up such a mechanism or discussion forum on arms and proliferation, we must have to work through the usual requirement of the terms of reference for that mechanism," said Asean Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong.

Ithad said North Korea's nuclear weapons program is among the issues the new group can examine.

Currency volatility

Asean and its three dialogue partners in East Asia yesterday adopted Thailand's proposal to set up a mechanism to prevent currency volatility in the region.

Speaking to journalists at the end of the meeting of the foreign ministers with their counterparts from China, South Korea and Japan, Thai Foreign Minister Nitya Pibulsonggram said the proposal was aimed at extending cooperation beyond the partners to the so-called "Chiang Mai Initiatives" to an attempt to cope with the currency volatility.

The Chiang Mai Initiatives were introduced in 2000 to enable to prevent a recurrence of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

Under the scheme, central banks of participating countries can swap foreign exchange reserves to help each other meet short-term cash commitments.

Fighting bird flu

Details of the plan will be discussed at the meeting of finance ministers and deputy governors of the Asian Central Bank to be held in China in November.

Australia yesterday unveiled more than $7 million in aid programs for healthcare that is to help fight the spread of bird flu as well as child nutrition.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer announced the package at a meeting with the Asean countries and a number of other key officials for the country's "very important" ties with the region.

He pledged $5.7 million to train veterinarians about bird flu in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, as fear of Asian's poorest countries.

Food safety

Australia will also provide $500,000 for an Asean task force on child and women's health in the region, said Downer, who added that his country would provide around $650 million in all to Asean countries this year.

Chinese foreign minister was forced to defend the "made-in-China" label yesterday in the safety of Chinese food dominated talks with Asean officials and leaders.

Foreign Ministers Yang Jiechi told US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte that Beijing did not want a string of recent health scares connected with the exports thrown out of proportion.

Quality testing

"We also oppose politicizing the issue of Chinese products, and oppose trade protectionism," he said, according to Xinhua. Yang was quoted as saying by a foreign ministry spokesperson.

The heated issues topped up inspections of imports from China after a chemical additive in pet food caused the death of pets throughout spring.

Since then, poisonous ingredients have been found in Chinese toothpaste, in exports to Panama and fish, while the deaths of patients in Panama were blamed on improperly labelled Chinese chemicals that were mixed into cough syrup.

China is willing to strengthen cooperation with the United States in quality testing, quarantine and inspection, and is also willing to promote with the United States the normal and smooth development of China-US trade," Yang said. With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, AFP, AP dispatch

KL refuses to sign declaration on migrant workers

From page A1

also bound by the Philippines on Cebu but January.

Strong consensus

In a media release on Monday, the Department of Foreign Affairs said, "There is a strong consensus within Asean behind the establishment of a migrant workers committee. The deputy ministers during meeting members of the Asean to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers."

"The creation of this committee will give life to this noble Asean initiative (signed in Cebu)," it added.

The department hailed the "adoption" of the instrument as "another victory for the rights and welfare of migrant workers." It explained that "it was not necessary to sign the agreement as the modest document was already signed in Cebu."

The issue of migrant workers was among the "priorities" set for discussion by the Philippines during its term of Asean chairmanship, which did not have the ministers to sign and that there are other departments in Malaysia that are responsible for the issue."

Malaysia has been reluctant to be bound by "legal instruments" dealing with the rights of migrant workers mainly because most of them are considered to have entered this country for "economic, temporary" employment, the official noted.

180-degree turn

That every member country will sign "was already agreed upon at the working committee level, but as the phrases went, the Malaysian delegation asked for a deeper study, meaning they did not have the mandates to sign and that there are other departments in Malaysia that are responsible for the issue."

Malaysia has been reluctant to be bound by "legal instruments" dealing with the rights of migrant workers mainly because most of them are considered to have entered this country for "economic, temporary" employment, the official noted.

In a round-half of the estimated 2.60,000 Filipinos in Malaysia are expected to be undocumented, many of them in the areas of Sabah, for years a refuge for Filipinos fleeing a civil war in the south in the southern Philippines.

Kuala Lumpur in recent years also has resorted to repatriation of "recession, refugees"—mainly from Indonesia and Burma (Myanmar)—and high jobs in the booming Malaysian economy.

The lessons requested for an interview with officials of the Malaysian delegation but was yet to get a positive feedback as of last night.

The source said the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam...bring labor-exporting countries—were particularly pushing for the signing of the agreement.

Obligations

The Cebu Declaration mainly stipulates stronger protection and improved conditions for migrant workers in the region, and assigned "obligations" on both the "sending" and "receiving" states.

The so-called "receiving" or employing states are expected to ensure workers' access to information, education and social services, as well as ample representation in the host country's justice system.

"Sending" states, on the other hand, are expected to supply workers who are not only properly trained but who will posses no legal problems to the receiving country. Tougher measures against illegal recruitment are also expected from the "sending" states.

In Cebu, the language of the declarations initially proved contentious—over whether the obligations of receiving states should or to be extended to the workers' family members living with them.

BREAKTHROUGH IN CANCER CURE!
You don't have to die of cancer!
Try our stem cell therapy treating it can be reversed in 30 days.
Don't pay if you don't get good results after the treatment.
We do home services for bedridden patients anywhere in the Phils.
Call/phone numbers: 09209000860, 09209100808
KBN Hw. Dir Tan Agustino, Herbal Biomedical & Oncology
Address: 329 Mariposa St. Brgy. Mariposa, San Miguel, Tarlac
Try our KAYOH HERBS SUPER ENERGY DRINK
Exclusive Distributor for Metro Manila & provinces: Ma. Lea Brig
Cellphone number: 0917 511 8000 or 0920 912 5470
Bldg. 28 C3 Commercial, Alabang Zapote Rd., Pamplona 3 Las Piñas
www.kayohherbs.com

NEW YORK ANTI-AGING CENTERS
Call now for a FREE 60S PRIVATE Consultation
914-9888 • 395-7331

Task force formed versus investment scams

From page A1

24, the President named the Department of Finance to the head of the task force.

Its members include the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Department of Trade and Industry, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Department of Labor and Employment and Human and Land Use Regulatory Board, which will all oversee task force members.

The NBI has already started investigating a foreign exchange trading firm, Performance Investment Products Corp. (PIPC), accused by thousands of people of defrauding them of billions of dollars.

To date, the branches in least 17 complainants who claimed to have lost P40 million to PIPC.

The task force is empowered to "conduct investigations, including real estate projects, especially those marketed to the public and extensive Filipino workers."

In carrying out its functions, the task force will "consult" with the Department of Justice (DOJ).

"Whatever prosecutors must keep the standard distance from investigators," said the SO.

Ms Arroyo laid out the specific activities to be undertaken by the task force:

- Monitor investment schemes and products.
- Give public warnings on questionable schemes and products.
- File evidence and recommend prosecution to the DOJ.
- Recommend appropriate legislation and regulations for investor protection.

Functions

The task force is expected to cover all pyramiding scams, including those on the Internet, and foreign exchange trading.

Francisco, one of the prominent witnesses that provided evidence to the Senate, closed down her office in Makati after the alleged loss of its officials, causing quite a number of Filipino investors to lose their investments.

Francisco promised a daily 4.5-percent interest for an initial investment of P25,000.

The task force will also zero in on the complaint of real-estate or condominium buyers about the inability of some real estate developers to hand the projects on time.

PIPC

The complainants claimed that the owner of the company, Sergio Jerome Michael Hill, Love, his fiancé Rosemary and disappeared, absconding with their investments totaling $1.41 million and P250 million of investors' money.

PIPC is part of the Performance Group of companies, whose website lists a Singapore subsidiary, the Performance Group Limited, and branches in Japan, South Korea, China and Switzerland.

Hill subpoenas 3 PIPC execs

The NBI yesterday said it would summon the three other incorporators of PIPC to shed light on the operation of the foreign exchange trading firm.

Commander Villanueva, executive officer of NBI Intelpol, said his group would subpoena Cristina Rosado, Ernest Ty and Manuel Gonzales, who is reportedly a brother of the firm's general manager.

"We will invite the rest of the board through a subpoena. We want to know what were their other functions and how the company operates," Villanueva said.

Citing the general information sheet which the PIPC had filed with the SEC, he said Rosado, Ty and Gonzales were all members of the firm's board of directors.

Except for Francisco, who was PIPC's corporate secretary, the rest were also stockholders of the company, Villanueva said, adding that he expected the three to appear at the Intelpol's unit next week.

Travel records

The NBI official also said that the public assistance center it set up to receive PIPC-related complaints in the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City has received 146 complaints as of last night.

Villanueva said joint investigations had up to the complaints against PIPC officials Love and its lading Cristina Rosado-Gutierrez, the PIPC general manager.

Makati crowd

Most of the complainants "belong to the Makati crowd," Villanueva said.

Another source said that among those who went to the hotel to lodge complaints included a popular model, a wife of a former high government official and a Chinese-Filipino hotel owner.

The public assistance center on the eighth floor of The Bond Manila Hotel, which is across from the SEC headquarters on Ayala Avenue, Makati, was set up "to provide a private space for investors who might want to but are hesitant to come out and speak up regarding their investments."

Bank accounts

The center was being manned by NBI agents from three divisions—Intelpol, National Capital Region and anti-organized crime division.

Villanueva said the NBI was coordinating with counterparts in the Philippine National Police to block the issuance of Love.

At least 10 investors have provided us with bank accounts, mostly in Hong Kong, where each of them had deposited an average of $40,000," he said. "All these accounts were reportedly registered under Love's name."

The PIPC case first came to light when Tarzon wrote the NBI on July 19, seeking help in the Embassy in securing the whereabouts of Love, the owner of the PIPC in the British Virgin Islands. (Performance Investment, BVI).

Love is also the president of PIPC, the local subsidiary of Performance Investment, BVI.

In her letter, Tarzon said Love had "unlawfully taken the money" of Performance Investment "in the guise purchase of its securities" including Philippine Peso.

However, some investors pointed to Tarzon as the one who misrepresented, coerced and encouraged them to invest in PIPC.

A victim, too

Summoned by the NBI early this week, Tarzon insisted that she, too, was a victim of the investment scam.

Accompanied by her two lawyers, Mario Bautista and Gonzalo Bañuelos, Tarzon appeared at the NBI anti-organized crimes division.

"She's definitely a victim," Bautista told reporters, adding that his client went to the NBI in response to the subpoena issued by the bureau last Tuesday.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE... While Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon are about to be parched due to a dry spell with no relief in sight, the rest of the country, including Barangay Talisik in Zamboanga City, is drowning in floodwaters.

generics wholesale 07-28-07
www.mygenerics.com
CITYLAND
Dream Land Village
Own a 472 sqm lot for as low as
P2.83Mcash P28,957/month
Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
P3,760
P39,500
INDUSTRIAL VACUUM CLEANERS
Tel. Nos.: 5245280 • 5245338 • 5245339
Cabanatuan (044) 600-1541 • 0917 5788476
Tel. 7480381 • 7481780

Pray for rain, faithful urged

By Nikko Dizon, Duane L. Lucas and Kristine L. Alave

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO CARDINAL Rosales yesterday urged priests and the laity to mount the Ateneista with prayers and seek divine intervention to ease the water crisis in Metro Manila.

Rosales said "the lack of rains is what is already the many reasons of the country calls for divine intervention."

"Our relief will come from nature. And as we implore the Master of all creation, God, our Father, in whose command the rainfalls and the east obey, to send us rain," the cardinal said in a statement.

Rosales issued an Ordo Imperata Ad Petendam Pluviam e Diebus ... (Prayer to Request for Rain) and Supplementary Prayers for Rain to be said in all Masses in the Archdiocese of Manila beginning tomorrow, a First Friday.

The Ordo Imperata was issued to all parish priests, shrine rectors, chaplains and school directors.

The prayer for rains will be said until the rainy season, said archdiocese spokesperson Peachy Bernardo.

'Ordered prayer'

The archdiocese defined an Ordo Imperata as an "ordered prayer for a special intention besides the ones prescribed by ritual that the Pope or the bishop of a diocese may require to be said or Mass."

As the height of the El Niño phenomenon in 1998, the late Jaime Cardinal Sin also issued an Ordo Imperata.

But the Manila Water Co. assured residents in Metro Manila's east zone of uninterrupted water supply for the meantime.

MWC media relations manager Ramillo Ibabatunta said there would be no reduction in its water supply.

In Metro Manila's west zone, the Maynilad Water Services Inc. warned that it may use water penalization output by 4 percent in the west zones if water levels at the dams serving the east reach critical levels.

As of 5 a.m. yesterday, the water level in Angat Dam was pegged at 172.10 m above sea level, less than 8 meters below the critical level of 180. The dam supplies water to farmers in Bulacan and Pampanga, and to residents in Metro Manila.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) yesterday warned that extreme weather condition "would persist until the end of the year."

Pagasa weather chief Nathaniel Cruz said that extended dry spells are usually followed by abnormally heavy rainfall starting September which may extend until December.

Cruz urged the public to brace for heavy rains and disastrous typhoons after August.

If no typhoons enter the country in August, Cruz said Pagasa would declare a drought. Since January, only two tropical storms have entered the country.

The government has allotted P3.464 billion for drought-mitigating measures in Luzon.

But Davao City Rep. Vincent Garcia called on government agencies to use the funds wisely and effectively.

"The funds should go to high impact, short term and long-term projects to address the drought problem," said Garcia.

The water level at Binga dam has also remained at a critical level despite the daily rains in Baguio City.

Mario Isota, Binga plant manager, said the reservoir level is at 566 meters, which is below the normal level of 575 meters.

The National Power Corp. said the water level of the Ambuklao dam has dropped to 746.10 meters, or almost five meters below its normal level of 751 meters.

The water level at Ano Nuevo dam was at 225.36 meters last week or 33 meters below its normal level of 247.79 meters, the Napocor said. *With reports from Frank Cimatu, in Quezon Northern Luzon, and TJ Burgonio*

DFA to probe smuggling of RP workers to Iraq

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo has ordered an investigation into reports that Filipino workers were forced to go to Iraq to work on the US embassy there despite a ban on travel there.

The Department of Foreign Affairs was directed to immediately send a team to the Middle East for the purpose of straightening out the situation," Interior Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

Testimony at a US Congressional hearing last week revealed that a company, Mid-Atlantic, contracted to build the US embassy in Iraq had smuggled 51 Filipino into the country against their will, telling them they would be working on hotels in Dubai.

Ermita said that if the reports were found to be true, the Philippines could blacklist companies that were recruiting Filipinos for work with Pete Kenyel.

The Philippine team, composed of labor officials and diplomats, will make sure that people in the Middle East no longer that the Philippine government has banned the entry of Filipinos to Iraq, he said.

It was not clear, however, if the team would actually visit Iraq.

Ermita insisted the ban on travel to Iraq is in 2004 after 10 Filipinos were taken illegally to Iraq was seized by insurgents.

He also ordered a raid last week in Muntinlupa where she pulled out a video interrogation of Filipino troops serving with US coalition forces which was a condition for 12 of 51 workers.

Officials say more than 4,000 Filipinos working in US camps in Iraq—mostly as cooks or maintenance personnel—remained there when the ban was imposed.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion has instructed the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency and the labor attaché to Kuwait to submit an initial report on the situation.

The Philippines has no diplomatic mission in Iraq.

Marianito Roque, chief of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, said his office was attempting to get the names of the 51 Filipinos. *With reports from AFP, Reuters, Xinhua*

Young marketing minds meet

THE YOUNGEST AND BRIGHTest marketing minds in the country will talk about how they addressed the most challenging marketing and business initiatives in their careers at the 2nd Young Market Masters Summit set on Aug. 7-8 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

The summit organized by Marianito and Fidelino Inc. will feature the recipients of the Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA), all under 40, who have made a mark in their careers in marketing and entrepreneurs. It is designed to encourage excellence in marketing and sales, mostly in their 20s and early 30s.

Among the speakers are Sionil Lorenzo, managing director of Unilever's skin, deodorant and home care division; Catalina Ang, SF for marketing of Coca-Cola Bottlers; Jane Basa, senior marketing manager of Smart Communications; Monette Aldaviso De Jesus, advisory account manager of Inmore Communication; Carla Chavez, senior brand manager of Alaska Milk Corp. and Antonia Mangahas Soares, publisher of Inquirer Media.

"Their achievements will encourage and inspire young people to become innovative in marketing and entrepreneurship," said Fidelino chair Josiah Go and is a successful.

IPPs laud Masinloc privatization

THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENT POWER producers have lauded the government for the successful privatization of the Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales, saying the sale shows that the Philippine power industry is once again on the radar screens of major foreign investors.

Ernesto Ordoñez, president of the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (Philex), in particular cited outgoing Energy Secretary Raphael "Lito" Lotilla and Jose Rizalda, president of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), for the successful bidding of the 600-megawatt plant at its winning indicated price of P9.08 billion or $1.53-million per megawatt.

The winning bid of the AES group—together with major foreign groups such as Itochu Tentabel, International Power, Sumitomo and First Gen—shows the confidence that international investors have in PSALM privatization and the transparency of the process, Ordoñez said in a press statement.

Investor confidence

Investment bankers and the international sales of the Singapore Mirant assets in the TEAM (Tejico-Marubeni) group at $3.45 billion and the bids submitted for the Masinloc generation are an indication of investors' confidence in the Philippine power industry.

With the privatization of the Masinloc plant, PSALM is well on its way to meeting its target which it has set for itself for 2007. PSALM said it also intends to privatize the Calaca 600-MW coal fired plant in October and Pantabangan in December this year.

However, Barangay Lammeel chair despite the success of the efforts of Department of Energy and PSALM, certain groups continue to undermine the privatization process through proposing new amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

Ordoñez said that the proposed amendments to Epira—including the lowering of the open access threshold from 70 to 50 percent and the cross-ownership restrictions on generation and distribution—will not actually lower rates for the country as these will still be a dominant player in the market, specifically the Meralco Power Corp. He said there is way power prices can be reduced is to have enough competition in the market. This can only be achieved through the privatization of Napocor assets, he said.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

One Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces the opening of the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE** of the **COURT OF APPEALS** vacated on 1 July 2007 by Hon. **SIXTINO C. MACAPAL**.

Applications or recommendations for this position must be submitted **NOT LATER THAN** 3 August 2007 to the JBC Secretariat at the Supreme Court Building, Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila. Tel. No. 552-9512. Fax No. 552-9598. e-mail address: jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph.

Applicants or recommendees for this position must submit copies of the following:

Application or Recommendation Letter	10 R.A. 1-2 recording cards
Personal Data Sheet (PDS) with recent photograph (Form can be downloaded from the JBC Website: http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph)	Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, PNP, and the Bar Confidant (BC)
Proof of Philippine Citizenship	Certification of Good Standing or Status (Active/Inactive) from the IBP National Treasurer
SS Number (Up-to-Date)	Certification from Office of Ombudsman
Certification of Good Standing or Status (Active/Inactive) from the IBP National Treasurer	Transcript of Judicial Records
	Police Clearance from place of residence
	Certification from Barangay
	Bar results (for Judges)

The JBC also announces that the following are applicants for different judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS (RTCs) – (NCJR) – MALABON CITY – (Br. 74) ANTONIO;

METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS (MeTCs) – (NCJR) – MALABON (Br. 71) – ANTONIO;

The public may submit sworn written comments, opposition or objections against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than 10 August 2007 to the JBC Secretariat.

1 August 2007

MA. LOURDES D. VILLANUEVA
Clerk of Court
Ex-Officio Secretary

by: ATTY. JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Executive Officer

I'm no tree killer, says Atienza

By TJ Burgonio

MONEY-STRAPPED ENVIRONMENT SECretary Jose Lito Atienza is so annoyed at be-

ing portrayed as a tree killer in the media, he has made a vow to plant up to 10 million trees in a fresh reforestation campaign.

Threatened termination of the environment department witnessed by environmental groups yesterday, Atienza sounded miffed when the touchy issue of the numerous Pink cutting up in the press conference.

"There's an allegation that I'm a tree killer. Mine, when ever did I kill? Since you're up to it and so hard what has been irresponsible said of me, all I can say is that I've never killed a tree," he said.

"I'm a tree preserver, tree planter and environment promoter," he declared.

The former Manila mayor's appointment was opposed by green groups, saying they considered him unfit for the job because he had ordered the cutting of trees in the Ateneo on March 2003 to give way to some school building.

Atienza claimed that no corners cut trees were cut down, and that saplings were transferred from the park to Ateneo in Teñido, Manila, during the renovation of the building.

He said that the Winner Foundation, which had forged an agreement with the city government in 1993 to develop the area into a forest park and opposed the construction of the building had blown up the issue.

"I invite you to put this issue, once and for all, to rest. One of these days, we should go there and see if I had killed the trees there," said the cigar-smoke area wearing his trademark Hawaiian shirt.

Condition speaks for itself

"To call me a tree killer is not right. With the permission of my wife, Isabelo Jr. is not a tree killer," he said.

According to Regina Reyes-Ileto of the Winner Foundation, the condition of the park speaks for itself.

"To begin with, we had a perfectly good lawn when he took over. Now it's gone," she said.

Winner said in 1999 City Hall from cutting over the park in 2003, but failed to get a favorable ruling from the Manila courts. Shortly after, Atienza closed the park to pave way to the construction.

Trees have been cut since then, according to the foundation.

Winner again filed a preliminary injunction case in 2006. The case is awaiting resolution.

Meanwhile, Atienza's successor as Manila mayor, Alfredo Lim, has reopened the park and vowed that no more trees would be built there.

Atienza, der fälle motorsame eine in der 10-Mio-Mio-Mio-Administration, beliefert bei mindel existieren die "Trees for Life" project of his predecessor Angelo Reyes.

This is a joint project of the environment department and the Green Army to plant 20 million seedlings across the country between now and December.

"Why plant only 20 million trees? Why not make it 30 million?" Atienza said in a press yesterday.

IMPORTANT

To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS: Tomorrow August 3, 2007 is the FIRST FRIDAY of the month. NOVENAS and STATIONS to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS and to ST. ANTHONY are given every FREE for Chapels, Hospitals, Schools, etc. Please get them from DOMPIC in the Seminario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City or at Builders Center Bldg. at 170 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City, MM.

TURNOVER. Outgoing Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes turns over the department baton to former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza during yesterday's turnover at the DENR offices in Quezon City. Atienza vowed to continue his predecessor's "Trees for Life" project, which aims to plant 20 million trees all over the country by December. CONTRIBUTED

idec
The New Split Type Aircon
Well-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
Free Installation

Would you like to be an AIRBUS A320 Pilot?
Clark Aviation located at Clark Airbase. We are accepting cadets with no prior aviation experience for the new MPL Aviation Course in one year you can be a fully qualified A320 Co-Pilot.
APPLY TODAY
+63 917 808 1155
www.alphagroupclark.com
joeathon@alphagroupclark.com
CAE A320 Level D Simulator
CLARK AVIATION
World Class Training for International Aviation Personnel

Party-list group slams delay in proclamation

By Christa V. Esguerra

WHAT'S KEEPING THE COMMISSION ON Elections from proclaiming the Anak Mindanao as one of the winning party-list groups in the May national elections?

Wajir Tamimori, Anak Mindanao's representative in the previous Congress, yesterday claimed the delay may have to do with his group's allegations of election fraud in 10 provinces, including Pasay, which is headed by a relative of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

Last May, the election lawyer of Anak Mindanao in Cebu questioned the canvassing of Bayabong Pinoy, which is also in Cebu, saying the party-list organization was based in Mandaluyong in Metro Manila.

Bayabong Pinoy reportedly said to be an organization of tricycle drivers from Mandaluyong, is headed by Abalos' older brother Jovencio, who is a municipal doctor.

"Maybe, [Benjamin] Abalos didn't like the criticism, that's why our proclamation has been delayed for so long," Tamimori said. "But he should not take it personally."

Abalos yesterday denied the allegation, stating the Comelec was "following a process" in the proclamation of party-list winners.

"I never nothing personally against him [Tamimori]. He should not worry," he said.

Abalos said the Comelec was still sorting out the issue of "over-voting" in Basilan. He explained that there appears to be a disparity of about 27,000 votes in the number of votes cast and those canvassed.

"We have to be careful because once we've made a proclamation, we can't take it back," he said.

SM appliance CENTER
our name is your guarantee
MEGATRADE HALL 3
SM MEGAMALL
MEGA HAKOT
July 13 - August 5
0% INTEREST
up to 25 months on a wider selection of appliances
Enjoy lower and lighter payments over 4, 7, 10, 13, 19 or 25 months using your HSBC credit card.
HSBC
The world's local bank
Get a Chance to WIN one of 24 exciting appliances
2 winners in the daily draw!

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 2, 2007
17th Week in Ordinary Time
Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne

Reading I: Jer 40:1-5, 10-16
Gospel: Matthew 13:47-53

Jesus said to the crowds, "The kingdom of heaven is like a big fishing net let down into the sea, in which every kind of fish was being caught. When the net is full, it is dragged ashore. Then they sit down and gather the good fish into buckets, but throw the worthless ones away. That is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will go out to separate the wicked from the just and throw them into the blazing furnace, where they will weep and gnash their teeth."

Jesus asked, "Have you understood all these things?" "Yes," they answered. So he said to them, "So a Master that is very readers of the Law who becomes a disciple of the Kingdom is like a householder who can produce from his store things both new and old."

When Jesus had finished these parables, he left the place.

Commentary

Most fields are rich of the treasure, and even the tallest of the lost lands. And He shared that God accompanied them through the desert areas as with one in the Land. Like the dwelling place. When the cloud rose, the Israelites moved forward, or their last step and at night the cloud is filled with fire. This is the presence of the Lord Himself with His people. They were together at the day from God. It seems helpful to be faithful if you are a leader or symbols that people can see/relate to. We still have this presence of the Lord, but it is the crucified and risen Son amongst us.

Jesus speaks of the parable of the dragnet, of God's kingdom of justice and peace being grasped through the means and challenges of everything. One day the net big and separating will come but for now even the wicked of humanity will, up everything in its wake. And it is like the head of the household that goes into the storeroom and chooses to take out, as need of, what is old and what is new (this is made) normally throughout the Matthew's description of himself and what he is doing in his gospel to help the new Church as it separates from the Jewish matrix). What is old they ready to be kept and what is new they needs to be incorporated in our Church?

INQUIRER

OPINION

Innocent narcissists

EDITORIAL

IT CANNOT BE DENIED: FILIPINOS ARE INNOCENT when thinking of themselves as Asean. UP Political Science professor Natalia Morales, in a commentary published in these pages last Monday, traces this lack of an Asean mind-set to what she calls our "innocent narcissism," a self-absorption that stems from our "ongoing search for national identity."

We can debate her premises, but we cannot argue with her conclusion: Belonging to an Asean community, much less to "one caring and sharing community," does not seem to figure much in the Filipino consciousness.

The ongoing high-level meetings in Manila among Asean officials and their counterparts in some of the world's leading powers have encouraged us yet again to put our best foot forward, but the hype and the laughs about the meetings cannot cover up, or make up for, their lack of resonance in our daily life.

This is a pity, because this week's meetings have in fact made some remarkable headway. Given the culture of consensus that animates the 40-year-old regional organization, the carefully choreographed initiatives announced in the last several days must be considered to be genuine breakthroughs.

The most important is the decision to include the formation of a human rights commission in the proposed Asean Charter. The diplomatic community gathered to Manila was prepared for a rejection of the provision, or at least a postponement of any decision on it. The military rulers of Burma (Myanmar) were expected to object to the provision. (Insider reports suggest that Burmese officials did raise objections, but, regrettably, they were not the only ones.) When the Asean foreign ministers ended up agreeing on the basic principles, therefore, and announced that the proposed charter would include a provision on the human rights commission, the unexpected news was greeted with understandably.

To be sure, the victory for the democratic cause was less than complete. Crucial details of the human rights commission and the process of forming it were left for future meetings to determine. In other words, it was a typical diplomatic advance, a cautiously worded declaration unburdened by too much specificity.

But Foreign Minister George Yeo of Singapore, the chairman of the next Asean Ministerial Meetings, could not contain his optimism. "Myanmar had a positive attitude toward all of this. At the ministerial level, we have reached a consensus," he noted.

Another milestone is the high-profile participation of the North Korean foreign minister, who visited the Philippines for the first time to bask in the applause of regional officials, who praised the isolated nation's decision to shut down its nuclear facilities, and to forge closer links with Asean countries. The Philippines, for one, entered into an agreement with the Stalinist regime in North Korea to forge a "bilateral consultation mechanism," one that institutionalizes regular consultations between the two countries.

North Korean Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun called the agreement "an important phase in our bilateral relations," and added: "Our cooperation is moving from strength to strength."

The entire region should welcome this "cooperation," because agreements like it strengthen the Six-Party Talks and provide Pyongyang less reason to prefer military action over diplomacy.

But if there is an initiative that will boost greater Asean consciousness among Filipinos, it is the agreement on sanctuary.

Under the agreement, classified as a standard operating procedure, citizens of any Asean country caught in civil conflicts can seek refuge in the embassy of any other Asean country. The SOP provides that, in case of imminent danger, "a citizen of an Asean member country may directly seek assistance from the missions of other Asean member countries or go directly to shelters or sanctuaries provided by their missions."

This is an initiative as sweeping, and as useful, as the earlier historic agreements to do away with visas for Asean citizens travelling to Asean destinations. Sanctuary will benefit overseas workers not only from the Philippines, but from neighboring countries, too. Thousands of Filipinos undergo pre-departure orientation programs; if they learn to look at other Asean nationals as sanctuaries, too, Filipinos may yet learn to leave their innocent narcissism abroad.

Publisher Isaac Tanco
Editor in Chief Letty Jimena Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editors Lourdes G. Gascon
Associate Editor for Investigations Rosario A. Garcellano
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez jr. • Chief, News Desk Noel B. Tolentino
Opinion Editor Juan Mercado
National Editor Philostrene B. Bumanglag jr.
Senior Lead Editor Joaquin Gonzalez III
Editor at Consultant Armando Doronila
Chief Photographer Rocky G. Gabuenas
Art & Design Director Lindy A. G. Villarino

Board Chairman Hermie L. Pineda
President Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Edgardo R. Rivera
Vice President for Operations Felix R. Olaguer
Advertising Director Jaime Ramon E. Tan

Readers' Advocate Jaime Kalaw Tan

All rights reserved. Except as provided by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed or adapted in any manner, stored in a database or retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means.

Tough riddle

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"SEE A PUZZLEMENT," ENSHRINE HIS Bremen, acting as the Greek Cliché memento of Sam to the 1964 film, "The King and I."

Filipinos are bugged by riddles, too. The country's "closest one percent intelligently in the Asian beam from the late 1970s until mid-1980s," University of the Philippines' Amelia Ballesteros and Ma'l Ong wrote, "is remote in most development parlors."

In 1941, only 2.38 million Filipinos were enrolled, mainly in elementary grades. Now, we're just a step ahead of Laos and Cambodia. And that's seen as poised to overtake "Sorn could economy with so many gifted, so many nice people, still up to such a mess!"

Philippine income per capita stabilized at 57 percent of Japan's from 1900, recalls Belen Iriberri, Island of Public Policy professor at the University of Maryland. "Filipinos may have been consuming while the Japanese were building technology." After World War II, the Philippines' per capita GDP was 25% more than wobble spinning direction of Japan's $31,931.

Since then, the gap widened almost 30 times: $27,392 for Japanese and $2,621 for Filipinos. "The divergence "is frozen in it, the Philippine economic trajectory," says Iriberri in a "Philippine Review of Economics" analysis. Nelson was visiting professor at the UP School of Economics.

Explanations range from policy failures, foreign governance, weak institutions, dysfunctional societies or a borrowed geography. So, the saner problems bubble: others blame nations but still their problems better, notes Asian Development Bank economist Edgardo Campos.

"Chinese can't understand ... how could a country, other nine-dash-line nations, become [classified as poorly," Nelson observes. The Philippines?

Inc. Argentina, "Mirror images" are that of distinct Juan Perón and Hollisted Marcos and Bandwagon were Evita and Imelda. Both countries experienced political meltdowns in 2001, and Filipino "salvage" victims down the 1970s Argentinian disappeared, Nelson.

Andrew Lloyd Weber's Broadway hit song "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" doesn't reveal the causes. Analyzing colonial similarities with Latin American countries, instead of different beats, Nelson faults Hollisted Michelena.

"In the Philippines, as in many Latin American settings, a weak state and powerful political oligarchies continued as part pioneers of the state at the service of private interests," Alfred McCoy reported in his book "Policy of Illusion." The inequality gap here is wider than in most other Asian countries. But a study for of many Latin American nations.

"The Peronist trajectory is remarkably similar to the Philippines, which also for 30 years in the early 20th century grew more rapidly than the US." It has been mostly downhill since then, before notes. Based on their economic histories since the mid-1970s, Chile should have been in what Peru should have been in the 1960s.

"By comparison, the economic histories of both Mexico and the Philippines are considerably different from that of Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan and South Korea, to the second half of the 20th century," Asian Asian nations rapidly closed their income per capita gap with the US. Mexico and the Philippines have somewhere else.

Like the Philippines, malfunctioning democracies of Latin America capped their countries' rises after the US Constitution and have Catholic nations that opens antecedents. Few forged effective economic policies.

By training, however, economists fault as ranking to to handle "soft" data where societies, pain never feared is tread. Working nations are "Mexico and the Philippines" and economists like Nobel Laureate Douglas North.

Consider the World Values Survey of 81 countries conducted by the University of Michigan. In the "trust" rating for Asia, 12 percent of Chinese believe most people can be trusted on, and 40 percent of Japanese think likewise. Only 2 percent of Brazilians think others can be trusted. So, did 6 percent of Filipinos. Both low levels of trust make it almost impossible to cooperate in increasingly complex modernizing societies.

"Why could we get out not together?" is a question Filipinos ask here. "It's a condition worthy of seeking efficient and irresponsible" a here the Chilean author Claudio Veliz puts it.

There is no agreement the workings of a political system from the character of a nation's people. Historian Ricardo Trota Jose's memorable study suggests that the 333 years of Spanish Catholic colonial rule shaped our nation more than the 50 years of US Protestant influence. If economists don't probe these, "we will have little to say about the real causes of nations such as Argentina and the Philippines."

Chile and the Philippines should swap places because both landed in the wrong continents," a wry wisecrack goes. The joke has a point. Indeed we seem to underestimate how Latin America and the Philippines share a set of "undeserved outsiders." Both's cracked, religion and culture were driving economies, not the other way around. Indeed, "once a parliament."

* * *

E-mail: jaculmercado@gmail.com

Lighting candles

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A COUPLE OF PEOPLE I RACK SOME OF FUREST ing things as will me in separate gatherings. One suggested that I write about certain prime things, too, about the bright side of things. She missed my columns on music, books, movies, music, my neighbors who have been celebrating the 40th birthday, etc., she said, and would like to see more of them in my columns. I should help make my readers hope things could be better. My writing of late, he said, tended to be on the grim side, he quoted something Nadal's brand in a long time, which was Joe Cruz's favorite expression: "Bawat araw ay lagim a umalis tlam sunod sa dumaraan."

The points are well taken. I miss my columns on music life too and, as per that reminder, will get back on them when I find the time and space, for there is no topic more worthy of one's time than the diary. Right now, there are a couple of talk in my neighborhood who seem resolute in not letting the light shine in their way in the spirit there seems to only loud handspeakers. And, yes, I have sacrificed some pleasures and a lot of sleep, and that could give readers a despairing view of life. What can I say? Like many people who write, I suffer from obsessive-compulsive behavior. And like many filmmakers who are passionate about their beliefs, I tend to speak my mind with much vehemence.

But some points about those comments I have to dispute as well.

There's one idea I've heard an awful lot the past, which is that I should write about good stories—solutions, inspirations—as to not always focus on the ugly, the topic chosen you. The first time I said that (in a book launching some ago), another journalist came up to me and said, "Conrad, I'm a fan, but I think you're getting serious, even if, as I am want to do, I tease my own seriousness. Be assured, I will finding a thrill, and seem so as never to control a good writer to your table.

But it's most hard the other when you write your topics choose you. Then the topic themselves upon you and demand to be addressed there and then, before others. When the hell seems so utter about the horrendous state of government, about the unseeing of death and dying—of the need for more than the lucky—and worse than either one, about GMA, whose deeds Maria Ressa sees as akin to crimes than in the French and Washington, where she got arraigned in the arena? When the hell seems so utter about the need for more than the lucky—and you can do you have either you can always say I enjoyed friends and influence assignment? Bucks, as have so, because you can't help your self since you pick up the pen or start pounding the keyboard. You write about them because, like Mr. Dooley, they are there. They demand to be children; they demand to be conquered.

Things are grim, life in the this country is grim, and no amount of sowing in on Tony Meloto's fantastic enterprises or cheers of UP-Ateneo comments in "American idol" is going to change it. I'm all for doing our bit to feed, house, clothe and equip with caring lovers from the homeless Jaime Filipinos, not need all that much to do that. But I don't know that that doesn't have its downside, too.

It's government's duty to provide them, by providing them ourselves or encouraging it, we are in fact freeing government from that duty or worse encouraging it for its negligence. It's like that purpose to any and needy and other endangered species in this country. What's one about is not just that it adds to the mistaken notion those unfortunate home is just our mental notion that the Filipino is that especially very good, it's that it excuses government's inability to redress poverty and other ills for the that, in one show the contradictions of the Fourth Estate.

Indeed, I don't know that this whole business of "focusing positive" doesn't have its downside, and especially so. Depends on what we think of "positive" and "negative." Being angry isn't always being negative, being civil isn't always being positive, being filled with hope isn't always being positive. There can be, and often are, the most positive things in the world, to hate, the opposite can be, and often are, the most negative things in the world. Not having angry not having today not being filled with hope is not always the best and evil is the most negative thing in the world.

That is so especially today. Not being outraged by the disappearances and death of Jonas Burgos and Mona Dismantling today more outrageous thing to be outraged by yesterday disappearing, or now having to now have lying to the public, instruments of public officials, elective and appointive, elected and not elected, is the most negative thing in the world. Not being filled with hope that we can overcome our present ills is the most negative thing in the world. Thinking positive can be, and often is, the most negative thing in the world. When we lack the courage to see many things as they are, we forget to see things as they should be. We lack today a more rejection of things we shouldn't be.

Think for hope. But not the kind of hope that comes from burying our heads in the sands, the kind of hope that comes from the belief that if we pretend to the lack and trust long and hard that bad things will get better. things will somehow be fixed. I believe in the hope that comes from realizing that however or dark the world has become, the power to bring light to it lies in our hands. If we only have the nerve to see it, if only we have the will to do it, if only we create enough conscience, or sense of light and saving, left to make us do it.

Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness? Not the always so. Sometimes it is better to curse because that light a candle.

Miracle enough

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Avelouda Alfararo-Gonzalez

Sixth former or sixth (in reverse for the rest of) Pangasinag of Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, have landed the honour of the invitation of the Un Nations talks last February or on the shoulders/coattails of the former Peninsula. The period Pak was with President Macapagal-Arroyo for 10 minutes during which she extended an invitation to Kim Jong Il to visit Manila.

In the dinner for Feb. 2007 recalled his visit to North Korea in 1990 solicited to the roadside banner of diplomacies (or with Pyongyang taste preferred by ambassador to Beijing Feral Bonifacio), and a painstaking Romulo's Jong Il's visit to Manila. Romulo, said, with the purpose of dissemination of the peninsula for long chance after the resumption of the Six Nation talks this September. Kim Jong-il would not be a world celebrity at the Cultural Center. And if Kim is able to travel by train to Moscow from Pyongyang, he said, hopping on the train to Manila from Hong Kong won't be too difficult. All three visited South Korea's President Roh Moo Hyun, for to his dinner host with the traditional three banners. He again got down from his car to get the flattered Speaker went most honor, to the assessment of the guests.

* * *

Tere Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chair Romulo Neri is less perturbed about allegations that he is "anti-poor" after the Ateneo de Davao dinner that pressing matters of college graduates who are unemployed. Neri, a former professor at the Asian Institute of Management, notes that the biggest projections of unemployed in the country are the part-timers (versus 70 percent) and one of the solutions he's looking at is matching the needs of local industries and the manpower demands of the global market to the kind of graduates our colleges and universities churn out in mass. "As for me, we need fewer or graduates in various aspects of education and more engineers and electronics graduates, but this would call for better grade and science programs in our basic levels.

* * *

Faced with the impression so much skills and jobs, Neri said CHED has ordered fewer courses in business (BSBA) and "frills, while favoring the "non-academically inclined" students. To illustrate the mismatch he said that the gross foreign commitments and deployment data, Romulo, which is making an exhibition of $1 billion in top of its original commitment of $1 billion in India, a employing about 10,000 people, but as expansion plans may call for about 25,000 workers. Neri said, it is also necessary to do away with "useless jobs" so he grass used by an governor in Cambodia. In anticipation of its manpower needs, and Neri, Romulo is putting up an "one window" center here. The same is true for Cotec. China's Export and Import Bank (Exim) Bank, the export-im company which is said to be looking either in India or Langley. Should Cotec come in, it would also put up in a "one window center."

Occidental Windows Rep. Amelita Villarosa has been cheered by the ruling House coalition as the second lady deputy speaker (the first was Eugenia Duavit). Villarosa, 54, is a member in fulfillment of two conditions. One is to give less representation to Kampi as a pillar of the ruling coalition, join the the other deputy speakers who represent the opposition (Rep. Rodolfo Mar and Bineni Dimamaya of Lakas, Yeh Sarembella of NPC and Eric Singson of the LP delete a wing. The other is to give the 31 Manila Congressmen adequate representation in the leadership structure, as Malaysian Rep. Elsa Hun lowers Ravaged pleaded.

Chinese RM awardees unlike China's 'me-generation'

HUMAN FACE

Mrs. Gloria P. Dayo

ONE OF THIS YEAR'S SEVEN RAMON MAGSAYSAY awardees, Chinese Chris Dunlop-Jacobs who is blind, will not be able to attend the ceremonies.

This week's Time magazine's cover story is about China's burgeoning young adults (under age 30, numbering about 300 million. Unfortunately called the "me generation" by Time's Jason Kluz, young, and flourishing babies born in the era of long ago of his successors. They write up to the limit of original. In growing economy, made their first major leader a Chinese who has not lived through the Mao era, which is the first published a dozen their parents never knew what to expect.

Now these twenty-somethings are taking over and living it up, although most have too and want to their children of a communist state, this one generation called the "me generation" by Time's Jason Kluz, they enjoy the mutual pleasures and satisfaction the economy they work for could offer, so why rock the boat?

Despite the democracy the lack of it in China that the world "moves on, is not going to hamper their lifestyle. The world continues and the powers to be will push millions who are under dependent conditions—those up poor from the of pensions.

Ramon Magsaysay Awardee Chris Dunlop-Jacobs, a 27-year-old advancing computer genius said, "My job never will connected. My life is connected to, and that's good. My contribution to the economy. That is how you live."

It's also possible for another 27 year-old fashion writer who loves spas, facials, massages and gym workouts. They work hard and they play even harder. Another 27-year-old art curator wants me to be a rock star. Another 27-year-old engineer wants to be a professional golfer. So there's no point in telling them it is getting involved.

Perry Tell that to the Filipinos in the same age group, or elders, who still protest for the ouster of Gloria and who continue to wage a guerrilla war against the government in the hope of turning their Marxist dream some way. The Marxist issue gnaws in the Philippines is the oldest in Southeast Asia.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, now on its 50th year, announced Monday in awardees for 2007. Among the awardees are Chinese nationals Wang Yi of Inner Asian Guangsheng and Chang Yu, will receive the award for Emergent Leadership. (for those under 40). Yang Guang will receive the award for Peace and International Understanding.

The Philippines' own Jovito Salonga is the only awardee for Government Service. Jovito Salonga's Senate is the founder for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts. Angelo Arellano Lorenzo for Leadership on Citizenship Election for Public Service.

In 1 and earlier, Chris who is blind will not be able to come here in person. The Bill Awards Ceremonies and Chris for his acceptance speech for peace in building ordinary Chinese citizens' awareness their legitimate rights under the law."

Blinded as an infant, Chris learned early how to confront life's limitations. He learned to overcome his lack of touch, he learned knowledge by listening to the radio. At age 10, he had completed a university course in language and recognized his talent.

Then, at age 16, he developed his study of law and became a "Taiwan lawyer." He helped people file complaints and settlements in local courts. He defended the rights of the disabled and assisted locals to participate with women the villages and to help them protect their rights. He also filed class-action suit against local officials for abusive violations of population regulations.

Chris's activism didn't go unnoticed. He angered local officials who were their after him. Chris was harassed, beaten and later convicted and jailed on trumped-up charges. He remained so to this day.

Chang Yu was born in Hong Kong and is already a successful banker when he decided to do something for those at risk from HIV/AIDS in China. In 1995, he set up the Chi Heng Foundation to educate people about HIV/AIDS and to provide information about the disease. Chang waged his battle through workshops, counseling, legal advice and by helping up with the sick.

Confronted with the AIDS epidemic caused by rife of contaminated blood and forced by the plight of AIDS orphans, Chang left his banking career to work full-time with AIDS Orphans. Previous Beginning with 127 students in one village, Chang has now helped over 1,000 AIDS-impacted children in four provinces through vocational training and university schooling.

I hope Chang will be able to come. Some years ago, another Gao Yaojie, a doctor who discovered the connection between unsafe blood transfusions and who worked to contain the accelerating poverty, was prevented by her government from coming. I should appreciate seeing her representative.

What I like about the Ramon Magsaysay Awards is their continued Understanding, comes from a different era. Now, to do beyond labor in the countryside during Diosdado Macapagal's administration, the recommendation of the CCP-communist blood and who worked to contain the accelerating poverty, was prevented by her government from coming. I should appreciate seeing her representative.

What I like about the Ramon Magsaysay Awards is their continued Understanding, comes from a different era. Now, to do beyond labor in the countryside during Diosdado Macapagal's administration, the recommendation of the CCP-communist blood and who worked to contain the accelerating poverty, was prevented by her government from coming. I should appreciate seeing her representative.

Judicial limbo

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

HIS ANTONIO TRILLANES IV WILL REMAIN IN detention, and recommended, until Judge Oscar Pimentel's decision refusing him permission to go to work on a bail bond earlier set by itself is overturned by a superior court.

Pimentel justified his decision by citing the case of Senator Antonio Trillanes' decision to run for senator and subsequent congressman, has not enjoyed any access to normal exercise of the House of Representatives because the Supreme Court said he had to serve his sentence. In a word, Pimentel decided that Trillanes had to be locked up in jail while someone who has already been convicted of a crime.

But no one—not even Trillanes himself, to the best of my knowledge—is proposing that he be allowed to avoid punishment if he's convicted. He is not, in other words, a convict. He is a detainee.

What is the purpose of detention? It isn't punishment. It's to prevent escape and to deal with the possibility of someone accused of a crime evading justice.

Trillanes' lawyers had brought up a most appropriate legal precedent in the case involving the late Sen. Jovencio Montano. Facing multiple murder charges, Montano died of cancer. Montano was granted permission by the Supreme Court to attend his last convention. The purpose of detaining had been to prevent the accused from fleeing. Montano's promise to a trusted media-escaping cannot be impossible.

In contrast, that famous escape artist, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, was not only allowed to post bail but also had his conditions of detention relaxed to the point where he could campaign for the senate. Honasan's movements during the delightful months that the charges against him would be dropped, lobbying chairmanships of Kalusa, also because the beneficiary of a remarkable grant of executive clemency.

Honasan has, of course, been indicted, with his senate in office, to punish the senate of rebellion, even with the administration. Indeed senators on the other hand of running a mere in the House and in the senate meetings can reasonably be expected to provide a similar accommodating political line.

It is therefore an expression of what you're doing, but when you oppose Boeing it is impossible, is senate—that the allegations of a "coup" or "conspiracy" of any political problem is shall see any flexible attitude toward the administration.

But no senate does not stand, and that, inflexible in your political stand, as Trillanes has done, you are not only the senate's prisoner, you are trying to consideration of your reasonable request at least and more than one, as Honasan's case did. Honasan's case did, after all, get the senate's consideration of his request.

Another is that, even if someone does die in detention or escapes, there is no guarantee that the detainee is released from custody. The Philippines has a history of detainees who have died in detention, and who provides over a million top hats which provides and accusation to its troops. There is, accusation of evidence to prove the accusations made by Trillanes, but accusers can only hide behind a hospital bars.

Still, he is under detention. In the eyes of the judge, he does not enjoy a presumption.

And so, a complete vote of confidence and executive, duly convicted on a house bill-mention of who up per house, can receive several sessions and set up another school for his detained.

Now, Juan Miguel Cuhal, prosecutor, disgraceful whatever months of the double he might have given by a simpleal public, basically embarking on a career of refusing to office and beginning his senatorial stint by passing as and housing over his detention cell.

In administration does it purported to intend to every consideration to Honasan and demonstrate in comparison to Arroyo, which gave its stunning support to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Senate Pres. Juan Ponce Enrile, and he expected, of course, as he is happy to that Trillanes can do his job. Are as it can—and must—pursue extreme measures, which, in the wrong hands, would make it so, have order of business to question me and the ZTE deal but why the Department of Justice had decided to withdraw the case?

An administration interesting lessons and wants to pursue any of its senatorial voice from emerging on the Commission on Appointments, where they would prevent the Interior of the public Bureau for the Department of Energy, or Lito Atienza for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is just that as not his justice get in the way of keeping Trillanes from observing space for some senators had ignored by the president of Honasan. Cuhal and that exemplar of parliamentary, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. It wouldn't be best be done for the future of the Philippines, it wasn't for the senate to be considered, it will only keep Juan Ponce Enrile's hopes alive.

To find out that's one of our favorite Filipino senators is one thing. Answers blind indeed.

Fauns and men

FOUR MONTHS AGO, I MADE ONE OF THE BIGGEST MISTAKES in my life. After consuming its promotional poster and attending it for another "Ateneo," I expected Guillermo del Toro's "El laberinto del fauno" (and more recently for that Dave Chappelle comment). But (with a clever sequel-ish), I would not be the appearance lack of name to the powers of my imagination. But those who would have thought that a movie involving a faun and a little girl could be so politically charged? Remarkably, the film is more in one subset part: it would and so, along with a friend (who happens to be an "independent" who "all" as I state), I learned one of the weekend rules of this morning. "Please don't ever judge a film by its poster."

On a more serious note, the experience has given me some insights into the limitations of human sensibility and its implications on decision-making. Yes, that's my title of discussion. Bear with me as much, as what values or opinions from the world or the philosophical, we have to make decisions. In doing so, we are confronted by an ever-constant, but inevitably affect the quality of our decisions, we (sometimes, the lack of intelligence of information or which we can base our decisions.

Last May, most of us made a decision that will inevitably have an impact on all of us. We (my apologies on the minority) that we have to abide by the decision and be temporarily elected Antonio Trillanes IV to the Senate.

I can understand why Trillanes decided to run for senator. It's an educated person who sees more on the brink of personality and often go for intellectual mercenaries, meaning for political office when public opinion is apparently on one's side can be very tempting. In the case of Trillanes, this prospect was even made more inevitable by a list of human rights he's a reference to all of us. On the issues of self-preservation, Trillanes is a hero. He is the man who made it easier for public office for reasons other than, say the desire to rid the government of corruption. Corruption as it now seems, does not seem to understand what we have in the imminent danger by a being and is trying to avoid the prospect of long prison years.

What inspired me to write was when Trillanes (in his initial political machinery and virtually no coherent political platform) still manage to win reelection. In one of the last interviews, had been quick to explain Trillanes' election victory: if I understand their right. An answer a bit petty a resounding "protest" from "the people who supported, and to be re-instated" to Philippine society who made them prominent while my issues that were not considered who, just like they are, is poor. Because he does not have much campaign funds? Suppressed because Congress was hired in order for him get back in jail? And victimized? —in other words, as underdog.

Although it makes uncomfortable, this "protest vote" (the very unfortunately pause is very disturbing portrait of our electorate. In our raw electoral system, policy issues take center stage during electoral seasons. Candidates present their platforms on key policy issues, and voters choose from among them based on the soundness of their platforms. In our recently concluded elections, however, what we found was a candidate who ran on the basis of his campaign funds, was his reputation and skills. For voters of this kind, problems like unemployment, poverty and corruption are quite simple matters, as simple in fact that even a military adventurer with no political experience (aside from founding a failed coup attempt) can color them by simple denouncing corruption.

Human rationality does have its limitations. People do make stupid decisions, especially in the absence of accurate information. And in political exercises like elections, it becomes even harder to make sound decisions when you are surrounded by demagogues, fools all sides, and probably worst values and ideals that accompany scoundrels.

If the results of the last elections are any indication, it seems that a substantial number of our voters are suffering from these conditions, which prevent them from making rational decisions. But unless these constraints exist, we may have to re-assess Trillanes's running in the coming elections. For there will be many voters who will judge their leaders on the same way that judged Joel Tesoro's fans.

Michael R. Reyes, 29, is a 4th year BA Political Science student at the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

IN THE NEWS

Rep. Pablo Garcia

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Monitoring of drought funds sought

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A NATIONAL Alliance of Fishermen has urged the oversight committees of Congress to monitor the millions of pesos that President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered released for measures to reduce damages to be caused by the dry spell in Luzon.

Fernando Hicap, chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mangingisdaan ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), said a sector search by senators and congressmen of the funds would help "avoid a repeat of the P728-million fertilizer scam in 2004."

Legislators are "politically, constitutionally and morally obliged" to monitor the disbursement of the anti-drought funds, Hicap said.

He said his group learned that in the meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council on Tuesday in Malacañang, Mr. Arroyo had said that of this amount, at least P264 million would be spent in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon.

Money flows

From that fund, at least P66 million will be spent for cloud-seeding, P63 million for hybrid-corn planting, and P5.5 million for prescribed vegetable seeds.

Ilocos and Cagayan Valley were allocated P18 million for the construction of 340 shallow tube wells.

Another P201 million is earmarked for Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon, and Bicol.

At least P130 million will come as livestock support to all those regions.

Pamalakaya also learned that P158 million would be spent to buy seeds for planting in seven selected irrigation services that have been restored. These include 40,000 hectares in the Ilocos and Mindoro that will be tapped to offset the losses to rice production in Ilocos and Central Luzon.

"We have to be extra vigilant here given the track record of the Arroyo administration, having been involved in big crimes of corruption since 2001, including but not limited to the P728 million fertilizer fund scam in 2004," Hicap said in a statement.

Insufficient funds

He said the funds that the government had set aside to help farmers cope with the water crisis were not enough in the case of Isabela alone, the dry spell has already damaged at least P300 million worth of crops, he said.

AN OFFICIAL of the San Roque Dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan points to measurements showing the falling level of water in the dam, indicating danger. The plant has cut back generating electricity for several days now.

He said the government should initially allocate farmers P35 billion to P70 billion to help farmers.

The Bayan Muna lawmaker urged Bulacan Gov. Josefina Mendoza and Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio to provide aid to the farmers affected by the cutback in supply from the Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Willy Machelle, BMP deputy secretary general, said the government could lend immediate assistance by buying pumps for groups or cooperatives or providing temporary jobs to tillers.

Another group, the Gintong-paso for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Economy, said cloud seeding was not an efficacious way to fight drought and government may just be wasting funds on it.

Hit-or-miss

In an e-mail, the group said cloud seeding was a "hit or miss strategy" in which funds could be wasted.

"[The] government should craft a long-term sectoral climate change action plan with multi-sectoral participation and inputs," said Dr. Angelita Gutang, the group's convenor.

Gutang also said changes in the leadership of the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources could be followed by shifts of the department in soft strategies and carry out unsustainable programs to battle the effects of climate change.

She said Mr. Arroyo should also rethink her position on liberalizing the mining industry, which would allow foreign-owned companies to mine such mineral resources.

"While the whole world is taking action to mitigate or remedy climate change, the Philippine efforts are found wanting," she said.

Dennis Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon and Marlene Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Cebu judges seek better protection from attacks

By Jaime R. Balanlay
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—CEBU BAR Association asked the Supreme Court to institute security measures to protect members of the judiciary following the murder of Regional Trial Court Judge Orlando Milares.

Executive Judge Fernando delos Santos of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Cebu City said the judges condemned the slaying of Milares on August 1.

The meeting caused alarm among judges in Cebu City, prompting them to include the incident during the regular meeting on Monday. The judges, who now call themselves "endangered species," urged the Supreme Court to implement effective measures to ensure their safety, De Santos said.

Their proposals included the restoration of a court bailiff to every courtroom, who should also serve as "bodyguard" or security detail of judges, he said.

The bailiff's task is to maintain order in the court but the position was scrapped during the 1990s due to budget constraints, De Santos said.

Although there were no recent attacks involving judges in Cebu, many of them have considered acting themselves, the executive judge said.

"We have organized security measures in the Palace of Justice and the judges now are armed but still this is up to them," said De Santos.

"The proposal for judges to have security detail is really not new. It has been considered many times and you know our limitations."

But Judge Gabriel Ingles, who presides over drug cases in Cebu City, said that having a bailiff in every court would not be practical since the attacks occur outside the courtrooms.

Ingles said the best way for judges to protect themselves are to be fair in their decisions and to base their decisions on evidence and laws.

Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia also supported De Gracia's opinion that having a bodyguard would mean added costs for judges.

Aside from judges, a majority of state prosecutors in Cebu City have received threatening, coprosecutor Nicholas Ballesteros said.

Ballesteros said the prosecutors supported a proposal made by a Department of the Interior and Local Government official to arm prosecutors with judges or give them bodyguards.

TWO GIRLS were among hundreds of spectators that watched as Mt. Bulusan sent a column of ash and volcanic materials into the sky, causing apprehension among residents of communities around the volcano.

Bulusan falls silent after ash explosion

Police say NPAs plan to bomb power plant

STL generates ₱1.5B in revenues for gov't

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Gawad Kalinga attracts youth volunteers

By Joan Escandor Jr.
Jhon Mangosthus, Contributor Metro

AN IRISHMAN WHO LEFT THE BUSINESS world to take on the challenge of building a better Filipino nation has been convinced that the model to eradicate poverty in the country is here.

Dylan Mills, 33, who has taken the responsibility of selling Gawad Kalinga (GK) abroad, said "the model of bringing the 10 spins out of poverty on a wide-scale" is happening right now. "I don't think there is something like this happening in other parts of the world," he exclaimed.

Interested in the GK since 2003, Mills said anthropologists would had been convinced that people of different cultures could not just adopt a "shotgun model of development and apply it in a country like the Philippines.

The GK model, pioneered by volunteers, is a program conceptualized by Filipinos that, he said, would be the only cure of poverty. "It's not only building infrastructure but transforming the lives of the people," he added.

The program has transformed the life of this Irishman, from pleasure-seeking when he was still a wealthy businessman to finding happiness in helping poor Filipinos, now that he works as a full-time volunteer.

In the midst of boredom, Mills said he was able to differentiate between seeking pleasure that only meant shallow satisfaction of accumulating and acquiring material things for one's self and finding "happiness" that means transforming the lives of people.

He has experienced living wealthy but there was a point in his life when he asked: "Lord, why am I rich?"

Mills said rich people seemed happy but underneath this surface are loneliness and emptiness, with family relations shattered, and even significant material things unsatisfied.

He said he had traveled for six months in search of charities that could help somehow the lives of poor people and found none until he saw introduced to the GK program.

On April 15, 2005, he sold his new BMW car for the mission of transforming the lives of poor Filipinos by building a village of 63 houses and a school in San Jose, Bulacan. It was named BMW 5D Village.

Satisfied with his newfound mission, Mills continued to help build villages for homeless, poor Filipinos who are touched with his commitment to the from poverty.

Jessica Zafra, journalist, 25, a Filipino-American studying at the Yale University, came to Cabanatuan for under an immersion program thinking that the GK program is a Filipino version of the Habitat for Humanity, after being told and reading stories about it online.

"It's entirely different when you're within the program. It's holistic, spiritual that addresses interlocking issues. That intrigues me enough," Villanueva said.

He recalled that he thought they were only in Cabanatuan to build houses for the poor and go, but found out it was much more than that. He added his coming made him proud to reconnect to his parents' culture.

Villanueva said he would do a study of GK program organization to figure out how he could help outside opportunities for Filipinos.

STUDENTS with GK children: (from row from left) Kathleen O'Hagan, Dianne Mangs and Ryan Villanueva. [illegible]

Amazing

He was impressed by the program's implementation that, he said, goes beyond building houses to addressing the other important aspects of life in GK villages he visited in Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, La Union and Ilocos.

Dianne Mangs, 27, a theater arts graduate of San Francisco State University, credited her finding an activist-yelling political issues in the streets until she came to the Philippines, a month ago, to immerse in the program.

"It's amazing everything's true what I was told (about the GK program) and more. I learned so much about my culture and resources with my motherland. The Filipino people are beautiful, smart, hospitable, hardworking and talented," Mangs mused.

With one month immersion, she said she was convinced that the Filipinos are incredible people, and given the opportunity could make their lives better.

Kathleen O'Hagan, 19, student of theater arts and humanities at the Yale University, said she learned so much living with people in the GK villages.

"We stayed in the village with the people. We played with the children and it was life changing for me," O'Hagan revealed.

She said she thought they could be of an use for them if the GK program was only about building houses. "They don't need as building houses here. In fact, we're terrible builders," she laughed.

O'Hagan was inspired by a GK story that was made into a movie and said she would ask permission from her university to come back here after the immersion program.

Value formation

Marissa Bernardo, provincial coordinator of the GK's child and youth program, said that aside from building houses, the children's program focused on values and value formation activities.

She said a "Gagabai school" was being run for preschool children and that local, national and international agencies and individuals were being tapped to sponsor children in the GK villages.

The program also helps the people in the GK villages develop their sources of livelihood until these have been transformed into self-sufficient communities.

Bernardo said the program continues to attract foreign and local agencies to help in the development of villages.

For the nine hectare GK village in Jose Dungumbaro town, a humanitarian agency called the Answering for the Cry of the Poor (Amend Australia donated 50 houses while the Department of Social Welfare and Development donated 15 units.

While, others ask to send stories about the GK projects in other countries, observed that the response to the GK program from the Filipino communities in Canada, Australia and United States has been overwhelming.

"Lots of Filipinos left the Philippines with a hole in their hearts, even leaving ones, leaving their families and loved ones behind to become heroes to their families. The lives of their country is still there. Many responses were amazing," he said.

Mills said many of them had read that the country was rising up against poverty and that there was a way now to help their provinces where they came from.

Another Filipino-Irishman-American, Mills confessed, has loaned $50,000 from a bank to build a GK village named after the donor's grandmother.

He said about 600 villages with an average of 30 houses each had been built with the help of Filipinos abroad.

"There is a deep, deep longing (from Filipinos abroad) to see this Philippines improve and rise above poverty," Mills said, describing the yearning of Filipinos abroad to see that "good stuff is now happening" in the country with the GK program.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

The country's lowest year-round fares just got lower!

It's the lowest Go Fares ever! Book your trip as early as you can and get the lowest Cebu Pacific airfare. It really pays to plan ahead.

LOWEST YEAR-ROUND GO FARES

₱98 Cebu - Bacolod or Iloilo
Manila - Laoag or Legaspi

₱288 Cebu - Clark, Davao, Kalibo (for Boracay), Puerto Princesa or Zamboanga
Manila - Bacolod, Cebu, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Kalibo (for Boracay), Puerto Princesa, Roxas, Tagbilaran or Tuguegarao
Davao - Zamboanga

₱688 Manila - Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cotabato, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos or Zamboanga

₱1,499 Manila - Kuala Lumpur

₱1,999 Manila - Guangzhou, Macau, Taipei or Xiamen (NEW)
Cebu - Hong Kong
Manila - Hong Kong

₱2,499 Davao - Hong Kong (via Cebu)
Manila - Bangkok or Singapore
Cebu - Singapore

₱2,999 Manila - Shanghai (NEW)
Manila - Jakarta (non-stop)
Davao - Singapore (via Cebu)

Domestic fuel and insurance surcharges range from PHP 750 to PHP 1,150. International fuel and insurance surcharges range from USD 23 to USD 44.

MOST DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS • MOST DOMESTIC FLIGHTS • MOST DOMESTIC ROUTES • NEWEST PLANES

Call (02) 70-20-888

CEBU PACIFIC

Book of jokes for Bicolanos

By Joan Escandor Jr.
Naga City

UNDER STRAIN OF AN OLD superstition that says book writers die early, newspaper-tories Levy Asuncion waited for a year or so before he allowed his columns to be published into a book.

Of course, Asuncion is still alive and he laughed his way on the launch of his book "Sakit ni Levy" on the occasion of the 59th charter anniversary of Naga City last June. The book is a compilation of short satirical and commentary pieces in colloquial Bikol (the spelling of the spoken and written language of Bicolanos preferred by local writers and historians).

"Sakit ni Levy" adds up to the growing number of literary works in the vernacular and, in this case, spoken filled in Naga mixed with Tagalog, English and Spanish phrases.

Language

Asuncion declared in his "Pagpasakbilot" (by invitation) that he aimed to show up his readers and, at the same time, contribute to the development of the Bikol language for the Bicolanos to discover for themselves its beauty and for the future generation to enjoy it.

The book defies literary conventions and its real challenge is to make readers expect more the relevance of its subjects and the humor that the author wants to convey, considering that the most hilarious pieces are about local issues and localities.

Ariston Cordero, a young, multi-awarded Bicolano poet and fiction writer in Bikol and Tagalog, acknowledged Asuncion's prowess in writing in Bikol that distinguished him from other commentary writers.

Chronicled jokes

"He knows how to poke fun on serious issues, inject dark humor and get away with them as his comedic-tinge since genres can be chronicled jokes for the next generations to discern life in Naga City in our times," Cordero commented.

"Sakit ni Levy" is a compilation of jokes, (meaning his best forthcoming title) and following Asuncion's (humor) style, he says, like those culturally rooted forms of Filipino expressions, would be lost in translation.

One must have enough knowledge and feel of the accent, rhythm of Bikol and the local scene to get the punch line.

The book is like a stand-up comedian trying to throw the audience what's funny about life, even in its most challenging situations.

Asuncion made use of contemporary perspectives on the daily grind of life in the city, a passing moment replete with rediscoveries, stupidity, foolishness and unfounded fears and beliefs that one could only accept pretense is to whatever to any imperfect human being.

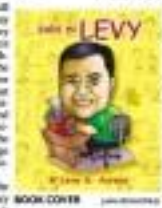
Obviously intended for Bicolanos, the author made use of colloquial Bikol—Bikol words that are Hispanic in origin, slang and street language—in his short pieces of prose with attempt to make poetic rhyme and rhythm in his more than parables that most of Bikol's real attitude of Bicolanos to see something funny in things they do and that happened to them.

Moreover, several book pieces are simply discussions of Catholic beliefs about the concept of heaven, hell, purgatory and confession while several more pieces were prose heavy for feminists and politically-correct individuals:

"Dagak sa kinaban akong amat Ateneo on siguradong amat den pasate na enrollingnes an pagbigayo' nin boots; at gabyan amat an kapalaran."

(In this world, two things (as they say) are definite and inescapable: paying taxes to the government and death.)

An pagbigayo nin boots, lain nanggad sa mga sapatos nin [illegible] Ateneo on siguradong amat den pasate na enrollingnes an kapalaran.



BOOK COVER [illegible]

Pwera lang, sometimes, saw be laugaod. There's a deal: Dying, on the other hand, is never laughed. Guess called upon by the Lord: one goes, breathing stops at an instance." Excerpt from "Expanded SEE Pagabot" (Expanded SEE Burden)

But understandably, Asuncion' writing style is a dispatch genre of the Jornalyo and the "Inang Ideng" humor of the '60s finds itself relatively revamped in prose with the invention of tickling funny bones.

The unique prose technique is an strength since it's a pioneering work of Bicol literature that lampoons serious situations and issues to eliminate the stinging effect on the reader.

Accidental writer

According to the author he accidentally stumbled on his Bikol writing skills and technique amid a dose of helplessness when he lost three pairs of pants hanged to dry on the clothesline.

To ease his misfortune about losing three pants at a time, he said he wrote verses in Bikol about the incident in a round-about ignorant with hilarious punch lines to ease him.

He sent his piece to a local radio station that started airing his verses in Bikol poem, which, he said, became the forerunners of the style that he used in writing his columns in several community publications. Soon, he was invited to be a regular columnist of the regional newspaper Bicol Mail.

With every piece illustrated by homegrown cartoonist Jordan Chavez, the 103-page "Sakit ni Levy" is generally commentaries on wide-ranging issues from sex to religious practices.

However, since the book intends to entertain rather than educate, the commentaries must be taken lightly as there are jokes in a period when old beliefs persist amid sounds of information overload in the age of technological boom.

Published by Bradpilar Publishing House Inc., the book is available at P200 each in several bookstores and outlets here.

Basilan suspects reduced from 127 to 10

From page A1

heading ... Most or less there are less than 30 people identified," Al Haq added.

The government's chief negotiator entered last by Muslim forces, said he was expecting a lullaprint on the pardon at Malacañang.

"Yes, there are names. The first leading report came up with the names of the people who had been determined (as) suspected and it's supposed to be (a) spontaneous (event), (where) all (a)bout six (suspects)," Al Haq added.

A Basilan court earlier issued an arrest warrant for 127 suspects.

In the House of Representatives, Basilan Congressman Wahab Akbar already had four "people who harmed" Basilan as unacceptable for the hostage-taking. He warned southern attack in Basilan could provoke massive civilian evacuation and undermine the peace process.

Akbar chronicled the fears in Basilan in classic Machiavellian Asante, Bahan Asante and Gaddi Gallelan.

"They promise the wars of the Abu Sayyaf but they are not Abu Sayyaf," the former Basilan governor told the Inquirer. "They are worse than bandits (in) marauders."

The military was supposed to go after the suspects but words but the offensive was held back until the Joint Coordinating Committee for the Cessation of Hostilities, a body representing the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), had completed the investigation.

The military has blamed a ranked group of MILF members, this Sayyaf leaders and "lawless elements" for the beheadings.

It was not immediately clear if the military would press ahead with the threat to launch military operations in Basilan, with the completion of the probe by the government-MILF panel.

Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Lieut. Pedro Cabangbang said talks were under way to secure the surrender of the suspects.

"I don't know if it's official or backdoor negotiations but here are efforts," he said.

Cabangbang said that while the military was ready to take action, "we are prevented from making offensive action because there are some people talking about surrendering, about peaceful means."

Akbar said southern armies would usually close "the backdoors" despite calls for ceasefire and dread officers to resolve peace talks with the MILF.

Defenses and military officials said they mounted a second bloodshed but were prepared to deal with it as a remedial.

"We are ready in the event the situation goes out of hand," Acting Defense Secretary Ruben Ancanan Grumbler said in Gumbaba City yesterday.

All because of a ring

Akbar said in his speech that one Marine had his head "sliced" after the attackers cut it off to get the ring he was wearing.

"The subject object got the ring because it was too tight to the subject object and the head of the Marine," Akbar said, calling the incident "extra-barbaric."

He said he first saw head in the scene of the clash between the Marines and the MILF in Albatche town, late in the afternoon of last weekend, and proceeded to behind the remains of the slain Marines after they would no longer find them as

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD: Lt. Col. Leonard Southern, leader of 911 Marines here in Tak Marine Battalion, holds on to his wife before departing for Basilan on Wednesday. EDGAR SUSO

and communities to take.

"The MILF forces were upon realization as they turned in the turn hung after the fighting had ended, and only to take the spoils of battle," Akbar said in a plenary meeting here.

Akbar asked the government to abandon its plans to send in more troops to Basilan.

"I appeal to them that they should end, for their part, not to send more (troops) to these places, destroy big their hopes and the lie, hostages will just be more in duration," he added.

Relief officials said they more than 6,000 people had fled their homes in 10 villages, the fear of being caught in the crossfire.

Akbar asked the House to allow him to "open dorsal" the efforts to get the people to move, saying the Basilan people would support him in going after Del Con.

Akbar's unity to the Basilan governor.

Poor intelligence

Akbar said the Marines were in Basilan based on faulty intelligence reports that kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi was being held on the Island. Bossi was freed later in Lanao del Norte.

Akbar said the military was correct with the MILF also would have been avoided had there been proper coordination with local officials.

In the phone interview, Akbar said the has suspects were also involved in the kidnapping of the child of a high-ranking official at the Western Mindanao State University.

They were also involved in rustrapping in Isabela City," Akbar said.

Akbar said he had witnesses that would provide the group in the people involved in the beheadings.

Akbar's denial

Akbar denied newspaper reports linking him to the atrocities.

"I'm not only a member of the House of Representatives, would instigate such (an) extra-barbaric act, an, a religious backlash, at that?"

Akbar was one of the engineers of the 2001 crackdown in Basilan against the Abu Sayyaf, during which hundreds of suspects were rounded up.

Akbar said he recommended the use of an iron fist against the Abu Sayyaf there because the development of hostages's had stagnated due to their presence in the island.

Akbar also raised concern over the reduction of some people in the armed services, saying their were innocent people turned in it.

He said even elderly people who could not possibly commit violence had been included in the list.

Most of the more than 6,000 people who have abandoned their homes in Basilan are staying with friends and relatives as neighboring Zamboanga del Sur province, Senator Christopher Lim, chairman of the Senate committee on defense and national security, said.

"There's a very important case to answer 'life will consider this'," Cabangbang said.

Pliers the inmates of the 14 Marine soldiers since in the July 15 Basilan ambush were brought to Manila, Cabangbang said his office made a "census" of their dependents who could be given free education.

"Unfortunately, many of them are staying in the provinces," he said. "So probably what we can do is to extend our scholarship to where they were school. I don't think the schools they are going to in the provinces are that expensive."

Cabangbang said a board of trustees would decide who the beneficiaries would be. He said that Filipinos (Bell) had offered free education for one child of each of the slain Marines.

He also said some of the dead Marines were single men and his office would consider the siblings of those men for the scholarship.

Cabangbang said that the tough life of the military had produced 5,000 college graduates, 72% of whom were honor students, 140 house graduates and five board topnotchers.

There were 12,000 scholarship-aided military dependents but he said "due to limited funds," the military could only accommodate 6,000 for now for free college.

Three women love, forgive fallen Marine

From page A1

ates the early core when Pranga had left without a child.

And Marilou showed quiet dignity and courage when she rose to accept the military's first medal of valor on behalf of the slain soldiers her husband had saved with Bitanol and Ongue.

Bride of 7 months

"It being heart to deserve a forgiving heart," Bitanol said in his message to Marilou because she had accepted the absolution. Bitanol and Ongue could not have said the same thing.

At first would have it, the three women were all together at the cemetery had in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, where military officials awarded posthumously certificates to the families of these soldiers, including Pranga, who were recently killed in action in Basilan and elsewhere.

Pranga seven months ago, Marilou was the blushing bride of the 30-year-old Bitanja.

The three women, united in one rebel, quietly wept at the program intended a stoic tribute to the fallen Marines and, there. The video presentation included the wedding day pictures of Russel and Marilou.

Clad in black, Marilou spoke briefly when she was called to accept the scholarship coordinates once behalf of her husband's children with other women.

Marilou spoke about what a kind, hardworking provider husband was.

"That's my very much in (the) leadership for his children," Marilou said in Filipino, as Bitanol and Ongue, she dressed in black, stood by her side at the podium.

Russel had two daughters with Bitanol, aged 2 and 4 years, and he had a 3-year-old daughter out in Ongue.

Anger, at first

Marilou could sign more that she had to child with Russel, whom she had known since 2003 and whom she married only last December.

She said that she knew Russel had children with Bitanol but whom she had met before. But she did not know about Ongue and her daughter with Russel.

She only found this out when he remains were brought to Manila and she met her.

Last meeting

"Truthfully, I was angry when I found out that their what can you do," Marilou said, adding that she had accepted the situation.

Marilou said she last saw Russel when he took a break from his Basilan posting in May.

Bitanol said that being the first godfriend of Russel, whom she had known since 1999, she knew about Ongue and later about Marilou.

After her child was born, though, was that Russel had married Marilou.

Bitanol said her relationship with Russel ended in 2004. The last time she saw him was on May 23 when he went home to his mother in Bicol.

Ongue said her relationship with Russel was still going on until his average death on July 1-3. The last time she saw Russel was when he visited last June 23.

A cruel last message

It was Ongue who called Russel's mother-in-law to tell her about his death.

Ongue learned about it in a uniquely cruel way—text messages, using her own phone. Russel texted her to say that they had killed him.

Like Bitanol, Ongue said she did not know Russel had gotten married. She met Marilou in Manila only recently. She had known about Russel's mother too, since he had spoken about her and them two children.

She said she had accepted the situation because she loved Russel.

Asked whether she would continue to contact with the two other women, Bitanol replied to the affirmative and said that this was for the sake of Russel's children.

An unusual case

But some in the women appeared to have accepted their unusual situation, it was not certain yesterday whether Pranga's children with Bitanol and Ongue would receive the free education plan due to the military.

AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Romeo Cadungog, chair of the AFP Education Benefit System Office, said Bitanol process would be reviewed.

"We try not to choke (on) rules so this be paid with and legal dependents," Cadungog told reporters when asked how the AFP would treat Pranga's case.

Told that Pranga had no child with his wife Marilou but had children with the two women, Cadungog said he could not say that it looked like Pranga's case was unusual case.

Not covered by rules

"We will review the case because the dependents are there," he said. He acknowledged that Pranga's case was "not covered by our rules and regulations."

Only legal dependents of soldiers are entitled to the free education, he said.

"There's a very important case to answer 'life will consider this'," Cadungog said.

Pliers the inmates of the 14 Marine soldiers since in the July 15 Basilan ambush were brought to Manila, Cadungog said his office made a "census" of their dependents who could be given free education.

"Unfortunately, many of them are staying in the provinces," he said. "So probably what we can do is to extend our scholarship to where they were school. I don't think the schools they are going to in the provinces are that expensive."

Cadungog said a board of trustees would decide who the beneficiaries would be. He said that Filipinos (Bell) had offered free education for one child of each of the slain Marines.

He also said some of the dead Marines were single men and his office would consider the siblings of those men for the scholarship.

Cadungog said that the tough life of the, the military had produced 5,000 college graduates, 72% of whom were honor students, 140 house graduates and five board topnotchers.

There were 12,000 scholarship-aided military dependents but he said "due to limited funds," the military could only accommodate 6,000 for now for free college.

Hillary's cleavage splits Washington

From page A1

"small acknowledgment of sexuality and femininity."

There were cleavage as display Pulitzer Prize-winning Carlson wrote.

"It belongs to Clinton, Hillary Clinton."

Clinton wore "a rose-colored blazer over a black top. The neckline cut low enough to reveal some but is visible Victoria's Secret. The cleavage captured after only a quick glance," she wrote.

"There would an unseemly amount of cleavage showing, hairdresser Frans Lindon, adds. ... It was wanting to see their sensible knowledgement of sexuality and femininity pushing out of the conservative—sensible, calls speaking—environment of Congress."

The focus on Clinton's bosom rather than her national security policy drew an explosion of "thousands of angry letters and calls" from readers, mostly women, the newspaper's ombudsman later wrote.

Many took issue with the idea that the first decided as much room to a sexual political aspect of a more national position to battle for the White House.

'Breaking'

The Clinton campaign of Friday chimed in, hoping to turn the wonderstorm over Carlson's article to advantage.

"Would you believe that The Washington Post wrote a 700-word article on Hillary's cleavage?" Jess Lewis, a top campaign official, said in e-mail messages sent.

Monday focusing on women's leaders instead of their ideas is insulting. It's insulting to every woman who has ever worked hard to achieve equality in a business meeting," Lewis wrote.

Most viewed story

The Post ombudsman defended Richard's article.

"Once this have anything to do with whether Clinton should be president?

Bill on 5 reasons to have sex for more

1. The person offered to give me drugs for doing it.
2. I wanted to give someone else a currently committed divorce.
3. I wanted to quench myself.
4. I wanted to boost up my relationship.
5. I wanted to get a job.

Bottom 5 reasons to have sex for women

1. I wanted to give someone else a currently committed divorce.
2. Someone offered me money to do it.
3. I wanted to get a raise.
4. It was an initiation rite to a club or organization.
5. I wanted to get a job. AP

Why have sex? Researchers count the ways 1 to 237

From page A1

body than a love connection in the brain.

Yet college-aged men and women agree on the top reasons for having sex—they were attracted to the person, they wanted to experience physical pleasure and "it feels good," according to a peer-reviewed study in the August edition of Archives of Sexual Behavior.

Twenty of the top 25 reasons given for having sex were the same for men and women.

Expressing love and showing affection were included by 84% of both men and women, but they did take a back seat to the three No. 1–"I was attracted to the person."

Researchers at the University of Texas spent five years and their own money to study the overlooked "why" behind sex while other researchers were spending their time on the "how."

Stereotypes refuted

"It's refuted a lot of gender stereotypes ... that men only want sex for the physical pleasure and women want love," said University of Texas clinical psychology professor Cindy Meston, the study's coauthor. "That's not what I came up with in my findings."

"The more we look, the more we find similarity," said Dr. Irwin Goldstein, director of sexual medicine at Alvarado Hospital in San Diego.

Goldstein, who was not part of Meston's study, said the Texas research made a lot of sense and adds to growing evidence that the sexual differences in the genders aren't only the same age people with sexual problems.

Meston and colleagues David Buss

What men, women say are top reasons to have sex

THE TOP AND BOTTOM REASONS for having sex from a list of 237 that college-aged men and women gave University of Texas researchers:

Top 10 reasons to have sex for men

1. I was attracted to the person.
2. It feels good.
3. I wanted to experience physical pleasure.
4. It's fun.
5. I wanted to show my affection to the person.
6. I was sexually aroused and wanted to relieve.
7. I was "horny."
8. I wanted to express my love for the person.
9. I wanted to enhance my orgasm.
10. I wanted to please my partner.

Top 10 reasons to have sex for women

1. I was attracted to the person.
2. I wanted to experience physical pleasure.
3. It feels good.
4. I wanted to show my affection to the person.
5. I wanted to express my love for the person.
6. I was sexually aroused and wanted to relieve tension.
7. I was "horny."
8. It's fun.
9. I initiated it/was in love.
10. I was "in the heat of the moment."

and 1,500 women in their early 20s, found that the most common reasons for sex were "I was attracted to the person" and "it feels good."

Buss, who has written books on the topic, said the study's findings are important because they show that sex is not just a biological act, but a psychological act.

"Sex is a very important part of human life," he said. "It's a very important act that has consequences for survival and reproduction."

Buss said the study's findings could help people in relationships understand why they have sex.

"Sometimes people have sex for reasons that are not very positive," he said. "Sometimes people have sex to hurt their partner or to make their partner jealous

Welcome to our latest BPI Branch.

Enjoy the first full-service mobile banking system from the leader in convenience banking:

- Real-time balance inquiry of deposit and credit card accounts
- Instant fund transfer to other BPI Express Teller accounts
- Convenient reload to any Globe or Touch Mobile prepaid phones
- Easy bill payment to over 170 partner utilities, merchants and establishments
- Hassle-free loading of BPI Express Cash or BPI Express Money Order cards
- Quick cash-in and cash-out to your G-Cash wallet

IT'S SO EASY TO USE BPI EXPRESS MOBILE!

Register now!

Text ENROLL<>Account Number<>Joint Account Indicator (2-digit number at the lower right hand portion of the ATM card). Send this text to 2274.
Ex. Text ***ENROLL 0016990139 02*** to ***2274!***

To get your free tutorial:

- Text BPI to 2274.
- Visit www.bpiexpressonline.com.
- Call 89-100.

Banking at your fingertips, anytime, anywhere.

BPI
We'll take you farther.

Aplus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Rose E. Cipriano
Send us your feedback: inquirer.net/customer/agent/php/message.php?101 (Globe) or 202 (Smart) E-mail at: metro@inquirer.com.ph

DID YOU KNOW

A 46-METER high monument at the center of the 21-hectare Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City houses the remains of Manuel L. Quezon, the first President of the Philippine Commonwealth. He was laid to rest in a bronze casket and marble crypt. Quezon died of tuberculosis on Aug. 1, 1944 in New York. His remains were buried in Washington, D.C., but were transferred twice – first to the Manila North Cemetery in 1946, and finally to the Quezon Memorial Circle on Aug. 13, 1979.

CAROL ANNMARIE JAVIER ROSARIO

STALLS DISMANTLED

Manila's Carriedo now open to motorists

By Allison W. Lopez

STREETS ARE FOR VEHICLES, not vendors.

After opening the "pedestrianized" portion of Rizal Avenue to vehicular traffic last month, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday opened Carriedo Street in Sta. Cruz to motorists after clearing it of vendors' stalls.

"Ang kalsada para sa motorista. Hindi pwedeng maglagay rito ng puwesto. Dinesisyon ito ng mga motorista. We can't put stalls there," The Inquirer Court has said that roads should not be used for commercial purposes," said Lim as he addressed the vendors.

The mayor, however, assured still owners that they would be given a square meter of space each on the sidewalk to allow them to go on with their livelihood. But the vendors' loudest applause was for Lim's announcement that he would not allow "kotong" (extortion) policemen to prey on them.

"We never just addressing complaints when we opened Avenida and now, Carriedo. This is for the interest of every sector," he said.

Jeepney drivers, commuters and owners of business establishments in the "pedestrianized" portion of Rizal Avenue complained of poor business and heavy traffic when then Mayor Lito Atienza declared the area off limits to vehicles. It was supposed to be traffic by Lim on July 14.

BPI Celebrating 156 Years of Banking Excellence

BPI: Committed to Inspiring Filipino Progress

Bank of the Philippine Islands has remained the preeminent financial institution in the country today, setting world class standards that have defined the way banking is done in the Philippines. Blessed with 156 years of banking experience, the Bank has sustained its passion for innovation and service, consistently introducing banking products and services that are responsive to the evolving needs of Filipino consumers, from the first Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), to the debit card, phone, internet and mobile banking, and onto the latest concept of mini branches. BPI has been the forerunner of banking milestones which others can only seek to emulate.

For its vision and leadership, and equally for its exceptional service, BPI has garnered international and local awards from prestigious financial institutions. The influential The Asset Banker has bestowed on BPI the "Best Retail Bank in the Philippines" crown for the fifth consecutive year at the sixth Asset Banker Excellence in Retail Financial Services Award held in Shanghai, China on June 6, 2007 – the most esteemed, comprehensive, and anticipated awards program in the Asia Pacific. Over 140 banks and financial institutions in 22 countries across Asia were evaluated, and in the Philippines, BPI was the coveted award for its business scale, product range, and distribution reach in areas where it is the acknowledged market leader: mortgage loans, auto financing, and overseas remittances. Being number one in these markets, and its early success in expanding to other areas of retail banking like wealth management, is a testimony to the strength of BPI's 156-year-old brand.

The prestigious Global Finance publication, which annually selects the best banks in emerging markets, has also named BPI "Best Bank in the Philippines" for the fifth time. Since 1994, BPI excelled in all key criteria for selection: growth in assets, profitability, strategic relationships, customer service, competitive pricing, and innovative products. Asiamoney, Finance Asia, and Alpha Southeast Asia have likewise bestowed "The Best Bank" award to BPI.

In the area of cash management, BPI has proven that it is a cut above the rest in the industry, earning recognition as the "Best Cash Management Bank" from The Asset, for outstanding strong growth in a rapidly maturing cash management market. Corporates also voted BPI as the "Best Local Cash Management Bank" in The Asset poll 2007. Cash Management Poll. The Bank also won the "Financial Insights Innovation Award" (FIA) for innovation in Operational Process for its File Transfer Services, a solution that provides corporate customers with a secure file transfer delivery channel from their financial and treasury systems to the Bank and vice versa. BPI was chosen as one of the 33 winners in the Asia Pacific region.

Another recent innovation, BPI Express, the Bank's newest branch model, also received the "2007 Banker Technology Award" for Branch Transformation Project of the Year. Global banking experts, called upon by The Lenders Award, The Banker magazine, which annually cites the best banking practices and innovations worldwide, were especially impressed by how BPI Express revolutionized the banking habits of Filipinos.

Back at home, BPI also received commendation from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) for the way it has responded to the needs of a growing migrant population. For the second consecutive year, BSP awarded BPI as the "Top Commercial Bank for Overseas Filipino Remittances."

Still these recognitions, BPI has clearly set the standards for excellence and visionary leadership. For 156 years, BPI has carved for itself the reputation for being innovative and adapting to the Filipinos' evolving needs, always ahead and determined in taking Filipino consumers further than ever.

BPI@156
We'll take you farther.

Build that business you've always wanted. Let's begin.

BPI
We'll take you farther.

Military has become a laughingstock

MORO rebels are probably laughing themselves hoarse up to now after policemen trying to serve warrants on many of them in Basilan Tuesday were beaten simply bonded.

The rioters, armed to the teeth and backed up by 5,000 or so Muslims and many troops, were out to the setup of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) over the terms of the ceasefire two weeks ago.

Many would like government expect to arrest MILF rebels who beheaded and mutilated the dead Muslims when if confirmed in taking immediate action against the perpetrators?

The perpetrators were given more than enough time to escape. They probably arrested with the local populace or on your falling to other provisions.

The soldiers, who rescued to rescue the deaths of their comrades, are demoralized.

Disgruntled being target and ripe candidate

...

My military sources in Basilan are wondering why the government has not confronted Brig. Nur-ah Adiong, former Basilan governor, on the alleged participation of his men in the ambush and beheading.

Sec. of defense's men were initially in the warrant of arrest, but they are not members of the MILF or the 40th Brigade as the government wanted.

No Abu Sayyaf bandit took part in the ambush and mutilation, according to our sources.

The MILF allegedly conspired with rebel's men in ambushing the Marines, but reportedly left it to the men of the political brigade to do the job of finishing off the prisoner soldiers, some of whom were still alive.

...

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

How come there is no investigation of the allegation in this column, quoting sources in Basilan, that a top branches of Moro Islamic Liberation Front Commander ordered the planes and helicopters near to reinforce the Intelligence Battalion back to base?

Intelligence units within the Philippine Marine Corps allegedly ordered the base to withdraw.

The top Pentagon men officer also is allegedly a close friend of Misuari. He probably was called by Arroyo on the phone and told to hold off his air support.

...

Is the Armed Forces afraid to conduct the investigation because it might open a can of worms?

...

Imelda Marcos and her son, Ilocos Norte Rep. Bongbong, are gearing more offensives against Bill Gates regarding Lucio Tan on the recovery of the late strongman's alleged assets to Tan's companies.

The Marcoses claim to own 50 percent of the assets of Tan's abaca firms.

Only the cold gullible, or those who were born after the Edsa I Revolution, would believe the Marcoses.

During their time, the Marcoses allegedly had assets in every company in the country that was existing, and would add, any dismantled, part of a company that was existing.

There was a joke during those unlamented years that Marcos was engaged in the existing business: "This is mine, that is mine; everything is mine."

Who could refute the Marcoses at that time?

...

Who was that customs official who ably-dallied pending unlawful protest to the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) to it could inspect big on shipped-in luxury cars?

Untitled protest, tainted widely in the Bureau of Customs, means government agents can talk it when stifling imported goods to see if owner cares and duties were paid on the goods.

When finally the customs bureau greeted the PASG occupant he ordered the person to see him. All the big shipper selling luxury cars were empty when the PASG agents arose.

The customs official is apparently in cahoots with car smugglers.

80 establishments in Taguig City locked up

By Julie PF. Bacalso

THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF Taguig yesterday closed down around 80 commercial establishments on C-5 Road after these were found to be operating still without the required permits.

A joint team from the Taguig City police, Business Permit and Licenses Office, Public Order and Safety Office and the Mobile Force Battalion of the city closure orders to the owners of the establishments.

The owners covered videoke bars, junk shops, car repair and redecorating shops, gear assembly and rebuild located on the southbound side of C-5 Road, busy Pateros Bridge to Bicutan flank.

Mayor Freddie Tinga earlier ordered a crackdown on establishments found to be operating without the necessary business permits.

Atty Meghana, BPLO officer in charge, said the owners of these businesses were violating the local government code of Republic Act 7160 as well as the Taguig Revenue Code which requires them to secure business, sanitary and other pertinent permits from the city government.

"Most of these establishments had the necessary permit to operate in this particular area. The city government is very strict in the issuance of permits, particularly in Pateros," he added.

Meghana said his office posted eight sealed three establishments to inform the public of the closure.

Their owners, he added, were also notified beforehand.

Taguig police chief Supt. Al. Fred Grijon said the serving of the closure orders was done peacefully.

"While we did not really expect resistance from the owners, peace and order remains our top priority as we implement the order," he said.

Meghana warned the owners against reopening their establishments or else they would be penalized by the city government.

"Follow-up operations will be conducted in the coming weeks to ensure the continuous implementation of the closure order," he said.

FIREFIGHTERS TO THE RESCUE
Pressure supply wanes as residents of Sta. Rosa, Kanaugue City: The dry spell the country is experiencing has led to a decrease in Metro Manila's water supply. YOSHI PINOSA

METRO BRIEFS

Vintage bomb found

AVENGER bomb was found by workers who were digging near a vacant lot behind a television company. The workers said they were unearthed a type of metal that later discovered was part of a 500-pound vintage bomber. They reported the incident to the members of the Manila Police District's explosives and ordnance division. The vintage bomb was found near Burnham Park. Police, which is now the Bonifacio Monument, Burnham Park.

Tina E. Santos

Unexpected discovery

A LIVE BIRD was found by a security guard while patrolling City on Tuesday. The bird, police reported, was found in the waste bin of the city police Sunday. According to the Mandaluyong City police, the bird, which was identified as Ramon Ramos, was given to the police station. Ramos, Ramos, Ramos,

Russia reduces ties with Hamas, backs Abbas

MOSCOW—RUSSIA AND ON Tuesday it was reducing contacts with Hamas but would maintain some ties with the Islamic movement in order to promote "dialogue" in the Palestinian conflict.

Moscow also affirmed its support for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, leader of Hamas rival Fatah, who held talks in the Russian with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

"I want to assure you that we will support you as the head of leader of the Palestinian people," Putin told Abbas at the start of the talks. "We are certain that you will do everything to secure unity." Abbas said that he would make "every possible effort" to unite the Palestinians following a bloody takeover of the Gaza Strip last month by Hamas.

Russia's deputy foreign minister, also involved in the talks, said afterwards that Moscow had downgraded its contacts with Hamas, but would maintain some ties to foster dialogue.

"We have somewhat reduced our ties with Hamas recently, and moreover we have told them such as practical, pragmatic goal — to establish dialogue and unity among the Palestinians," Andrei Denisov said.

A Russian official later told AFP that Moscow had decided to shift its support after taking a dim view of Hamas's use of force to take control of Gaza.

Before the June uprising, Moscow had treated Abbas and Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal as equals, he said, but afterwards contacts with Meshaal were reduced to those they considered Abbas the legitimate Palestinian leader.

Russia has carved out a unique position in Middle East diplomacy by maintaining contacts both with Israel and Hamas, which is considered a terrorist group by the European Union and the United States.

Contacts with Hamas—including a Moscow visit by Meshaal in February—have been widely criticized in the West.

Denisov stressed that no meetings were planned between Hamas representatives and the Russian government, and that Moscow was speaking with the Hamas leadership in Syria and not in the Gaza Strip.

He said that Russia also planned to boost humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territories, and may provide 10 armored personnel carriers and other equipment for the West Bank, which Fatah controls.

Analysts said that one of Abbas's aims during his three-day visit to Moscow which ended on Tuesday was to press Russia to cut contacts with Hamas.

But the Saudi leader has declined to openly criticize Russia for engaging with Hamas, telling Russian RIA Novosti news agency in an interview published on Tuesday that this was "Russia's matter as a sovereign state." Abbas maintained that position during his talks with Putin, Reuters said.

Speaking to reporters through an interpreter after the meeting, Abbas said Hamas should give up control of the Gaza Strip and take responsibility for its actions before any talks.

"The situation must return to what it was ahead of the coup before there can be a normalization of contacts and Hamas "should recognize its guilt and apologize for its crimes," Abbas said.

The Palestinian leader's visit comes amid efforts to inject new energy into the Middle East diplomatic. Quartet, which recently appointed former British Prime Minister Tony Blair as its envoy.

The Quartet includes Russia, the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations. This week's talks also precede a Middle East conference scheduled for September at the initiative of US President George W. Bush. AFP

BATTLE OF THE BEETLES
Children use stag beetles to control their beetles in a miniature boxing ring during the MBSC (Insect World Battle Championships) beetle bout in Tokyo Aug. 5. Beetles are popular pets in Japan, where many children go hunting for them in during summer vacations or as part of school projects. Reuters

WORLD BRIEFS

28 killed as boat sinks

LUANGWA—In one of the worst boat evacuating people from a flooded village capsized in a mid-morning, two of hundreds today on Monday, this municipal said. 28 people, officials said. Some 80 people from the waterlogged village panicked and got on the boat that had a capacity for only 50 people. Unable to handle the weight it overturned mid-river, said Pardeep Singh, a government official. "Early five people were able to safely swim 28 bodies have been found and search for others is on," said Singh, adding that some of the bodies were found three kilometers down river. Most of those on the boat were women and children, he said. AP

69 miners rescued

BEIJING—Sixty-nine men trapped in a flooded Chinese coal mine for more than three days were pulled out after on Wednesday, authorities said, ending a terrifying ordeal in which they survived on milk and candy and prayed to Mao Zedong. Several footage broadcast on state-run television showed the filthy miners shambling as they emerged from the mine to various China's Henan province among thunderstorms to give them eyes time to adjust to daylight again. A crowd waiting at the entrance of the Zhujiazhuang cheered wildly as the officials rushed to shake the hands of the dazed men, some of whom were so weakened by their experience that they had to be on stretchers or wheelchairs. AP

53 convicted for blasts

NEW DELHI—A court on Wednesday convicted 53 people for a series of bomb blasts that killed 68 people in a southern Indian train station that in 1998, nine years, a court said. Nineteen acquittals ordered the train on Feb. 14, 1998, shortly before a Hindu nationalist leader Lal Krishna Advani addressed an election rally there. On Wednesday, Judge R. Uthayaraju ordered sentencing but waited against the 998 accused. Of the 69 people whose verdicts were announced by on today, 53 were found guilty of criminal conspiracy, Press Trust of India news agency reported. Six of the 69 were acquitted. A 54 said. Seven people who died before the trial. Of the remaining six. The accused included L.K. Advani, the founder of a hardline political party, the Bharatiya Janata. AP

Bollywood star jailed

MUMBAI—An Indian actor was on court on Tuesday sentenced Bollywood movie star Sanjay Dutt to six years in jail for illegal weapons possession in connection with an 1993 bombings in Mumbai in 1993. Dutt was convicted last year of buying guns but was cleared of the more serious charges of conspiracy to commit the attacks, which killed 257 people and injured at least 800 others.

Oil prices ease on profit taking after record close

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES FELL on Wednesday as traders took profits after the front month crude futures contract climbed a record price in the previous session.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery lost 19 cents to $74.83 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, mid-afternoon in Singapore.

The contract gained $1.26 to settle at $75.21 a barrel Tuesday, hitting the previous record close of $77.03, on July 14, 2006, on concerns that the US crude inventories fell last week.

Investors believe a weekly inventory report by the US Energy Department's Energy Information Administration, due late Wednesday, will show that refiners drew down oil inventories last week as they continued to increase gasoline production, analysts said.

"Oil surged ahead yesterday in an a new settlement record for Nymex, primarily fueled by momentum buying in expectations of a more weekly data this today will show crude stocks falling," said Victor Shum with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore, who attributed the drop in profit taking.

Analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires, on average, expected Wednesday's inventory report to show crude oil inventories fell 600,000 barrels in the week ended July 27 as refinery utilization rates rose 0.7 percentage points to 92.1 percent of operating capacity.

"If crude stocks don't fall, or if the stock drawdown is smaller than expected, then one could expect to see some liquidation by investor funds," Shum said.

Declines in crude inventories have driven oil prices higher in recent weeks even though overall stocks are comparatively high.

Vitesse's PVM Oil Associates noted that "even with such a decline, US crude stocks would remain some 43 million barrels above the five-year average and around 37 million barrels higher than were in the same week last year."

Those fundamentals seem set to matter to many speculators analysts say large investment funds—many of which trade on technical factors—have pulled money out of gasoline futures and plowed it into oil futures in recent weeks, another factor driving high oil prices and undermining gasoline futures.

Hedge funds and other speculators have been trying, unsuccessfully, to test the all-time intraday record high of $78.40 a barrel, set last July.

"There is certainly a lot of talk about trying to push past that intraday record of $78.40 but it would take a lot of hefty funds the inventory data to make pricing go above the record and stay there," Shum said. "The market is volatile to overread."

Crude prices have gained more than 20 percent in the past two months on a combination of refinery outages, supply reductions in Nigeria and the North Sea, and forecasts that global supply in the end of the year might not be enough to match demand. The rise has been rapid, with prices hitting fresh record highs in 18 of the past 23 sessions.

The US Energy Department report is also expected to show gasoline stocks increased 1.1 million barrels last week. Gasoline stocks, which declined during oil and diesel fuel, are expected to have risen 1.4 million barrels.

September Brent crude fell 14 cents to $74.93 a barrel on the ICE futures exchange in London. AP

Cabin leak threatens US shuttle launch

WASHINGTON—NASA ON SUNDAY lost discovered a leak in space shuttle Endeavour's cabin and are talking behind the scenes experiment a delay in the mission's launch, a US space agency spokesman said Sunday.

Endeavour's mission to install a link new the weekend after they closed the shuttle's hatch to check that the cabin seals properly during a countdown check for the Aug. 7 launch, Mark spokesman Kyle Herring said. AFP

"We can't launch with a cabin leak," Herring said, adding, however, "At this point there is no delay of the launch."

Engineers are isolating valves that control cabin pressure to find the source of the leak and replace the defective item in time of the launch, he said.

The countdown for the launch is due to begin Saturday at 2000 GMT.

Endeavour is taking seven astronauts on a mission to continue the expansion of the International Space Station.

During the mission, the astronauts will install a new truss segment, a gyroscope and an external space parts platform on the orbiting laboratory. AFP

Japan's aggie minister resigns from Cabinet

TOKYO—JAPAN'S FARM MINISter resigned Wednesday, the first casualty in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's summer-planned Cabinet after a major election defeat that has raised calls for a change in government.

Abe has defied opinion polls that say many voters want him to quit as well, arguing that his party's election blow showed anger over the untoxhih cat-scandalog his ministers but not his conservative agenda.

Farm minister Norihiko Akiyama, 68, becomes one of the dozen or so serving members of a Japanese Cabinet in memory for rank office just two months ago after his predecessor killed himself amid a funding scandal.

But in his chief time in office Akiyama was embroiled in his own set of money troubles, roiling questions about other Abe's choice of ministers.

"There were various reports about me during the upper house election campaign. It is an undisputed fact that I have never pocketed a penny for the debts of the ruling coalition," Akiyama said in his resigning.

Akiyama also attracted unwanted attention 14 days before the election when he showed up at a Cabinet meeting with large bandages covering his face.

He said he had a skin irritation, but media ridiculed him, saying that the Abe's Cabinet looked beaten up.

"I was chastised by many people for not appropriately explaining my illness. This also is behind the election results and I apologize," said Akiyo, who showed reporters a stack of receipts in a bid to explain past controversies.

Akiyo is the third Cabinet minister to resign since the week office in September.

"The way he explained things was bad," Abe told reporters of an evening Akiyo's resignation. "So the result, people's distrust grew, and I took it seriously."

But senior lawmakers within the ruling party were openly critical of both Akiyo and Abe, who had earlier said he was planning a Cabinet reshuffle.

Upper house legislator Yoshi Murata said the resignation would have "nothing but a negative impact" on the administration.

"This makes people wonder why he's resigning before a planned Cabinet reshuffle. They say he's resigning because he's in jail till the reshuffle and not mind the fifty of the current Cabinet, his said. AFP

AKINO

ANTONIONI

Tributes pour in for Italian film legend Antonioni

ROME—TRIBUTES POURED IN Monday for film legend Michelangelo Antonioni, director of the 1960s hit "Blow Up" and one of the last figures of Italy's golden age of cinema, who has died aged 94.

Antonioni former culture minister Judy Ling hailed Antonioni, who died at his home in Rome on Monday, as a "giant of world cinema." The Late director "revolutionized the language of cinema by reconciling literary intelligence to it," Ling told ANSA Italian newswire.

As culture minister, Ling made Antonioni a commander of arts and letters in 1995.

Movie Mayor Walter Veltroni said Antonioni was "not only one of the greatest living directors, but also a master of modern cinema.

"Thanks to Antonioni's cinema, we had another view of reality, another way to look at the face of a woman, the design of a car, even a street was not the same thing after having seen his films." Antonioni's body is to lie in state in the elegant Sala della Protomoteca at Rome's city hall, the Campidoglio, on Wednesday morning.

He is to be buried in his home town, the affluent northern city of Ferrara, on Thursday.

Italian Culture Minister Francesco Rutelli hailed Antonioni as a "lucid and very creative intellectual [who] was an acute observer of the ills of the 20th century ... His disappearance closes a historical cycle of Italian cinema."

In Athens, Greece's most prominent filmmaker Theo Angelopoulos commented to AFP that Antonioni and Swedish director Ingmar Bergman, who also died on Monday, "had attained fullness in their life and works." Angelopoulos said he considered Antonioni as one of his personal masters. "The first meeting was in Rome when ... I showed him my ticket for "The Adventurer" (1960), which I had seen 13 times. He smiled and showed me a ticket for my own film, "The Travelling Players," though admitting that he had only seen it twice."

Antonioni, although he made only about 20 films, was "an important reference for cinema and culture," and made cinema "more adult," said Italian director Paolo Virzì. AFP

Award-winning expert Aldo Tassone said that both Antonioni and Bergman interpreted "existentialism" angst [and] emotional alienation in the post-war world."

On behalf of the European Commission, President Jose Manuel Barroso expressed "considerable sorrow," saying Antonioni "has bequeathed us his magnificent cinematic legacy, invaluable for his contacts striving for new forms of expression."

"Blow Up" won Antonioni the Palme d'Or at the Cannes film festival in 1966, while the Venice film festival honored Antonioni with the Golden Lion for "Il Deserto Rosso" (The Red Desert) in 1964 and a career Golden Lion in 1983, followed two years later by a career David. AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

Taliban threaten to kill more

GHAZNI—SPOKESMEN FOR THE TALIBAN said today they would kill more of their 23 South Korean hostages unless the government in Seoul agrees to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan by a Wednesday deadline required and negotiations to be held for a 48-hour extension.

The seven-member team that flew into the country last week to negotiate the release of the hostages said they would kill two more hostages for every day the deadline is extended.

"We killed them because they worked for the government," the group said.

The militants, who have also demanded the release of 23 prisoners held by the Afghan government, said they would kill two more hostages for every day the deadline is extended.

"After the deadline passed, one or more hostages could be killed any time," Taliban spokesperson Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP.

He said earlier there had been no progress in the negotiations in which the rebels have demanded that some Taliban prisoners be freed from Afghan jails.

One of the main negotiators, parliamentarian Mullawood Arsalan, and tribal elders hosting the talks had asked for 48 more hours. "We are waiting for the answer," he said.

The Taliban stabbed Bahtia to death in Ghazni province, where they were captured by the Taliban two weeks ago—around the same time and place the German nurses were seized.

"We killed them because they worked for the government," Ahmadi said.

The militants, leading an insurgency after being removed from power in 2001, are demanding the freeing of Islam-right Taliban prisoners in exchange for the South Koreans.

Afghan authorities have rejected the demand after being transformed unconditionally for a similar deal in March.

Talks resumed Wednesday, and there was no progress overnight, Golden said earlier. Religious clerics among a delegation negotiating with the militants had "asked the Taliban to stop killing hostages," he said.

The murder of the second hostage was widely condemned, including by UN chief Ban Ki-moon.—a former South Korean foreign minister—the Arab League and al-Azhar, the premier Sunni institution of learning, which is in Egypt.

Muslim majority Malaysia and Human Rights Watch on Wednesday added their calls to the 21 existing Christians to be freed.

A 42-year-old pastor, who had led the church group that was captured while entertaining orphaned from an aid mission in Kandahar province—the birthplace of the Taliban—was found dead a week ago.

Seoul, which has reportedly offered the Taliban a ransom that has been refused, has appealed for "flexibility" in negotiations with the Islamist group.

South Korean civic groups, public figures and relatives of the hostages have called for US intervention.

But a spokesperson for President Hamid Karzai said authorities should not bend to the demands of "terrorists" for fear of encouraging kidnapping. AFP

LITTLE DEVIL
A child with his body painted in red impersonates a "little devil" and dances with his comrade on July 21 on the eve of the Santa Domingo patron saint's day at Las Sierritas church, 7 km south from Managua. Thousand of faithfuls will celebrate tomorrow Managua's patron saint's day in what is will continue in a week-long festival. —

Readers wary, but others are elated

Murdoch buys Dow Jones, Wall Street Journal for $5B

MURDOCH

NEW YORK—RUPERT MURDOCH'S NEWS CORP HAS won control of Dow Jones & Co. and The Wall Street Journal, America's top business newspaper, in a $5 billion takeover which will dramatically shake up the US media landscape, the Journal reported late Tuesday.

Murdoch's victory capped two months of intense negotiations between News Corp., Dow Jones and the Bancroft family who have controlled Dow Jones for more than a century. The Journal is a globally-recognized business newspaper and also has a loyal online subscriber base.

The Journal cited Elizabeth Goth Duhig, a Bancroft family member, as having won a new era of ownership for Dow Jones.

"On the one hand it is quite sad, but on the other it was the only reasonable thing to do," Duhig told the Journal.

"Now I look forward to a better Dow Jones. It's going to have more capital and a world publication and all of the things that it could have and should have had but didn't," she said.

Murdoch, a 76-year-old media baron, has spent decades building a vast media empire and is planning to expand his interests even further on Oct. 15 with the launch of a News Corp.-backed news channel for television channel, Fox Business Network, in the United States.

The Journal said Murdoch had stated Monday that he may add four pages of extra news coverage to the Journal.

Dennis Cosgrove will still need to get US approval for the deal, but Murdoch has said he does not anticipate that being a problem. The Journal said the deal could be closed by the end of the year.

Murdoch's triumph came after several months of tough negotiations. The Bancroft family initially had rejected News Corp.'s offer and several Journal journalists had voiced strong opposition to the deal.

Some Bancroft family members were fearful that Murdoch would destroy the Journal's editorial independence, but he conceded to establishing an editorial oversight board if the seven-control of Dow Jones lost bid to appoint such opposition.

Some Journal reporters said they were expressing their opposition also said that Murdoch would use the Journal to promote his wider commercial interests if he succeeded in taking over the prestigious business paper.

The Dow Jones board has already approved the takeover, but the Bancroft family members had vowed to resist the deal.

A report earlier Tuesday by the Journal said, however, that a key Bancroft family trust, managed by a Denver law firm, had suddenly decided to throw its weight behind News Corp.'s offer, meaning Murdoch enough controlling votes to take over Dow Jones.

Prior to the trust's move, Murdoch had reportedly gained the support of Bancroft family members controlling 32 percent of the firm's special voting power.

The family control a majority 64 percent of special Dow Jones voting right and wield their power through a complex multi-class.

Other shareholders had reportedly put pressure on the Bancroft clan to sell out to Murdoch.

News Corp.'s $60 billion hostile takeover bid is worth $60 per Dow Jones share and the deal marked a hefty 65 percent premium over Dow Jones' share price in the takeover offer being made public.

Dow Jones' shares closed up over 11 percent at $57.38 in market trading earlier Tuesday. The Dow Jones board met on Tuesday morning in New York to make a final statement on the day's events.

Murdoch's apparent clinching of the deal also came after few other suitors emerged with a counter offer.

Internet entrepreneur Brad Greenspan, the founder of the social networking website MySpace, announced an alternative of the late Monday, backed by four investors who were ready to inject $600 million to develop Dow Jones.

Dow Jones's assets also include business magazine, MarketWatch, Dowbone Newswires, the Dow Jones Indexes and the Ottaway group of newspapers. AFP

UN to deploy 26,000 troops, police to Darfur

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN Security Council authorized on Tuesday up to 26,000 troops and police for Darfur and approved the use of force to protect civilians in Sudan's acid western region.

Expected to cost more than $2 billion in the first year, the resolution "hybrid" UN-African Union operation aims to quell violence in Darfur, where more than 2.1 million people have been driven into camps and an estimated 200,000 have died over the past four years.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who conducted months of talks with Khartoum, described the unanimously approved resolution as "historic and unprecedented" and said the mission would "make a clear and positive difference."

The resolution, number 1769, invokes Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, under which the United Nations can authorize force.

The measure allows the use of force for self-defense, to ensure the free movement of humanitarian workers and to protect civilians under attack, but acknowledges Sudan's sovereignty.

The resolution, which has been watered down several times, no longer allows the new force to seize and dispose of illegal arms, saying it can only monitor such weapons.

Sudan's UN ambassador Abdalmahmood Abdelhaleem Mohammed, told reporters, "I am comfortable with the resolution," he said the use of Chapter 7 was limited and that negotiators "went to great lengths to satisfy our concerns."

The resolution authorizes up to 19,555 military personnel and 6,432 civilian police, which if deployed would be the world's largest peacekeeping force.

US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad called on Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, to provide "maximum cooperation" in deploying the peacekeepers or face sanctions.

"If Sudan does not comply with this resolution, the United States will insist for the swift adoption of additional and multilateral measures," Khalilzad told the council.

"Now Sudan faces a choice," he said. "Sudan can choose the path of cooperation or defiance." Visiting Sudan Foreign Minister Lazhari Ibrahim made a similar assertion threat in a speech earlier in the day.

The revised text, however, dropped a threat to impose further sanctions if Khartoum balked.

China's UN ambassador, Wang Guangya, said he welcomed the resolution, and the passage of the resolution was to launch the hybrid force "rather than threaten sanctions." Reuters

Russian explorers ready for epic North Pole descent

MOSCOW—RUSSIAN ICE pilots were to make a historic descent to the bottom of the Arctic Ocean under the North Pole on Wednesday, the first mission to claim the area for Russia, expedition officials said.

Two Russian ships carrying the explorers, a research vessel and a nuclear-powered ice breaker, were making to on the North Pole and visibility was good, ITAR-TASS news agency quoted the crew as saying.

The explorers were planning to use two mini-submarines to descend to a depth of around 4,200 meters, where they will carry out scientific tests and leave a Russian flag.

"We have the most severe and risky task...to descend to the depths, to the seabed, in the harshest of weather, where no one has been before," expedition leader and parliament member Artur Chilingarov was quoted as saying earlier.

The dive is believed to be the first of its kind and to part of a voyage that started on July 21 and aims to advance Russian claims to a swathe of Arctic seabed thought to be rich in oil and gas.

In a speech on a nuclear ice breaker earlier this year, President Vladimir Putin urged greater efforts to secure Russia's "strategic, economic, scientific and defense interests" in the Arctic.

There is growing international rivalry to the region as energy reserves grow scarce in other parts of the world and the melting of the polar ice cap makes the area more accessible for research and economic activity.

But some experts warn that oil and gas reserves in the region are not large enough to offset the operational costs and difficulties of working in Arctic conditions.

The Arctic 2007 expedition hopes to establish that a vast chain of sub-sea territory known as the Lomonosov Ridge, which includes the North Pole, is in fact an extension of Russia.

The expedition set off last week from the northern Russian port of Murmansk. AFP

Largest Sunni bloc quits Iraq gov't

BAGHDAD—IRAQ'S LARGEST Sunni Arab political bloc announced its withdrawal from the government on Wednesday, undermining Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's efforts to curb sectarian violence among the country's warring factions.

The announcement came a week after the Iraqi Accordance Front, which has six Cabinet ministers and 44 of parliament's 275 seats, presented al-Maliki with a set of demands it said he must meet within seven days or it would quit his government. The ultimatum expired Wednesday.

"The government is continuing with its arrogance, refusing to change its stand and has dismissed all the doors to any meaningful reforms necessary for saving Iraq," Tariq al-Hashemi, a leading member of the Accordance Front, told a news conference.

"We had hoped that the government would respond to these demands in at least acknowledge the failure of its policies, which led Iraq to a level of misery that no one in modern history (has) seen," he said. "(It) has not surprise us at all," al-Hashemi said, reading from a prepared statement.

"The Iraqi Accordance Front announces its withdrawal from the government of Nouri al-Maliki," Tariq al-Hashemi, a leading member of the Front, said at a news conference in Baghdad.

He said the bloc's six Cabinet ministers would submit their resignations later Wednesday.

Al-Hashemi said the decision to resign was based on al-Maliki's failure to respond to the demands put forward by the Accordance Front.

Among the demands: a pardon for security detainees not charged with specific crimes, the disbanding of militias and the participation of all groups represented in the government in dealing with security issues.

The Accordance Front's withdrawal from the 14-month-old government is the second such action by a faction of al-Maliki's "national unity" coalition.

Five Cabinet ministers loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr quit the government in April to protest al-Maliki's refusement to announce a timetable for the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Knights close in on Final 4 /A23

SPORTS

Editor Rodolfo S. Plebenito Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

■ Parilla rules jetski tourney /A24

Norwood hot as RP cagers dump India

DANNY Seagle works against a Syrian defender in their consolation round match Tuesday. INQUIRER

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

TOKUSHIMA, JAPAN—GABE NORWOOD WOULD have preferred all of these—aerial acrobatics, free throw accuracy, lunch-like defense, efficient rebounding and foxy playmaking—to have come together when the stakes were much higher.

But, hey, if it's an open door, as there is or right here, then that he will let go it. For himself, and for the glory where his "homies."

The refined composite scored in the team-search of an understatement and buying last Miguel RP turned this skill pulled off a 126-68 rout of India in the fourth-area round of the Jiba-Jiba men's basketball championship elimination in the Tokushima Municipal Gym.

In his last performance for the mixed had 23 points, making seven of 24 shots from the field and a perfect nine-of-nine from the stripe in a 33-minute run in the Philippines bound for a possible rematch for top consolation honors with defeated champion China.

"My value is to...[illegible]...," said RP coach Chot Reyes of Norwood, who is being groomed to supervise of the country's fall to lesser international course.

"His value is his versatility for us play five positions and the work he does on the floor, his defense, his playmaking, those dont show up in his numbers."

The former George Mason U standout, who was with this team when it made that LD HCM's Pearl Poon at heavy underdogs, scored a three-point play late in the third to give him Philippine RP a 20-point lead.

He had six points early in the fourth as the Philippines took every phase of 35-point margins, the last in 97-65, and sealed the game spectacularly completing another three-point play and going for a highlight reel alley-oop off a feed by Jeraldo Hontiveros in the closing.

"He had a money quy's been coming into the game and I just decided to be aggressive," Norwood said.

Siot Miguel-RP started three players Wednesday and the crew behind the Filipino brash, normally reserved for them, who failed to make the cut began to look like an orthopedic shop: Eliel Capston was down, nursing an overextended shoulder; Jimmy Alapag is out because of a calf strain; and Jeffy Williams was absent because of a hearing hamstring.

The Chinese, bogged by the Filipinos in their preliminary round meeting, also managed to a 102-47 pasting of Indonesia in the last win-dropped worst in the history of the Piba Asia men's championships prepare to look home for rematch or more specifically for semifinals.

It still be actually the end of a best of three for both countries. Chi-na, playing with its second team, won the first meeting during the Senior Middle West Bilateral series annual tournament hosted by the country before the Philippines got

NORWOOD, A21

PBA must 'stay the course'—Eala

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

EALA

TOKUSHIMA, Japan—In another to make sense to concern son of the country's basket Olympic bid, commissioner Noli Eala said Wednesday the country's professional league must "stay the course" if it is to enlist virtually the heroes picked up from the disappointing Jiba Miguel-RP campaign in the Piba Asia men's basketball championship.

"I think the PBA has to be quarrelling organized, Patrick Fournier—to say the same," Eala said in a briefing with journalists Wednesday morning after San Miguel-RP capped India in a thumping-match, 97-65.

"It's the only way to put some sense and some sanity to the situation happened here."

Eala refused to quote specifics of what's stake for the pinoy basketball organization but made a general statement in the league pending a meeting with the Piba board, he said. "There are three things that come to my mind immediately which I will take back to the Piba board.

"First, do we continue to support the national team and therefore [keep] competing internationally?" began Eala. "Or, do we keep to ourselves this season to [train] a pool of players that we can use for future competitions?

And third, do we adopt Piba rules for the Piba[illegible] so as to make the adjustment not only of our team but that of the coaches come and couples?

"I think these are [illegible] decisions that we have to do and with the PBA board, our team owners, our coaches, and also our players," he added. "I think these are drastic changing decisions but in our heart, I'm sure we had any problem making very big decisions."

National coach Chot Reyes concurred also the pinoy against India that he was leaving the bet of the team and the program up to the Interfacing Basketball up Filipinos and the PBA.

Eala said he was ambitious to have the league right smack in the middle of the national basketball program despite the failure to nab an Olympic slot in Beijing next year—the main purpose of the formation of the cage-wing of national basketball.

"I don't think my ambitions are limitless," Eala said. "From Day One, when I became a commissioner I took it upon myself, to point of my presentation to the board, that the PBA has to be involved to be the international basketball scene, in fact representing the country. I [will] recommend to the board that we should [continue to] accept this role."

The annual PBA Draft Convening is set in Ateneo early September.

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE GREEN RIVERS POWER CORPORATION,

ERC CASE NO. 2008-000 RC

GREEN RIVERS POWER CORPORATION
(SMALL POWER UTILITIES GROUP-WPC)
Applicant

x - - -

NORWOOD

SEA Games five welcomes Norwood

GAME NORWOOD SPELLED GOOD news for the Philippine team awaiting for starts to learn its Southeast Asian Games campaign this December.

"With his athleticism and desire to help the cause of Philippine team in the Thailand SEA Games, he will have a welcome addition to the team," said Mikee Romero, shotbowl Games project manager of the Philippine Basketball Association.

Star Magnol PF team manager Robert Itos announced Monday that Magnolia is set to acquire Norwood to the coming PBL season, a move that may pave the way to his possible SEAG debut.

The 6-foot-5 Norwood started his Ch-Mont Red Hot squad George Shines University, before he was tapped to join the San Miguel-B squad competing in the coaching Philippine basketball association in Tokohama, Japan.

"I like that Miguel manager [name] still allow Norwood to play for the PF team then it's a win-win development," said PBL commissioner Orino Trinidad. "Norwood has the talent to benefit the team."

Romero said Norwood and Jason Castro can be the initial guard crossfire tandem squad needs locks to do tournament bid.

Castro, a versatile 5-foot-10 guard, delivered his decision to turn pro to join the All-amateur team in his last tournament.

"I can hope others will also give their support to the PP team," said Romero. "This event is for Big and country. We have to work as one in order to vanish our goal and the SEAG Games is the opening gate."

Erich Arejola, Romero's special assistant and Harbour Center team manager, said the young PP team will join several international tune-up tournaments including the Bronze Cup.

"We've been looking for a talented agile player and the possibility of having a Norwood in the team is the answer to our prayers," texted Arejola.

Romero, who has allotted P10 million for the SEAG campaign, added that the squad must have at least four full players with no foreigners the shortest time after testing this summer like Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have imposed in recent years. Jasmin B. Ilao

Knights close in on Final 4

By Mary Anthony Reyes

WITH RELATIVE EASE, THE LETRAN Knights made a step closer to the Final Four last night.

Holding Perpetual Help at bay for most of the game and handily sapping an endgame spurt, Letran cruised to 83-70 triumph that secured the Knights of at least a playoff for a semifinal berth in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Arena.

It was the third straight win for the Knights who improved their standing second to 7-1 while handing the Altas their fifth loss in seven games.

Jose Neal bucked the absence of its two stars—Jerwin Gaco and Cesar Lalanan—to topnotch Mapua, 69-64, and climb to third place at 6-3 with its third straight win.

The Cardinals fell to a 2-6 mark in second.

Kerwin and Lalanan, who share the same shirts, were admitted to the hospital for runs of food poisoning, according to Jose Neal coach Aries Dimaguila.

Letran started to shoddy last quarter where it committed most of its 20 turnovers before making control at halftime from a 9-13 count.

"That was a knock-to-back ugly win for us," said Letran coach Louie Alas, whose boys barely survived St. Benilde, 82-80, recently.

NBA roster freedom

JAMES CHRISTINE
Free forward
6-2 ht. —San Sebastian (Cubao)
Avg. —
44.4% — field goals
61.5% — free throws

JOSE NEAL 69—Jose 14, Ogbuji 10, Nuelo 10, Mitchell 9, Gabriel 6, Pascua 6, Jao Li-Ho-langit 5, Mahinay 0, Ilustrisimo 0, Ilustrisimo 0, Ilustrisimo 0.

MAPUA 64—Go 18, Mendoza 12, Dela Peña 12, Dela Peña 12, Dela Peña 12, Pascual 9, De Pinero 8, Gonzales 8, Bautista 6, Gonzales 6, Bautista 6, Gonzales 6, Bautista 6, Gonzales 6

SPORTS

Paba justifies SEA Games inclusion

By Jazmin Navarro

NOT FEELING A RIVALRY, team to the Thailand-hosted Asian Games is more channeled than boosting his chocolates.

Baseball chief Bertie Navarro said his team's the defending champion and he sure no reason why it should be excluded from this year's meet slated Dec. 6-16.

The Philippine Olympic Committee has endorsed an overhaul of the team for wrestling up-load last in the 2006 Doha Asian Games, among others.

"Sorry, we lost. But we didn't commit any wrongdoing or any persecution," said Navarro. "Guys. Over forgotten that we're the defending champions in the SEA Games?"

Navarro also denounced the statement of a POC official, who released in the summit, that the Olympic body was displeased with reports from Doha Asiad negotiators that some team members carried away free chocolates, hence their report of commission of the SEAG leader.

"I was nothing wrong with it," Navarro told the business. "The chocolates are free. And besides, the organizers just throw the chocolates away if nobody cares to touch them."

Navarro said we sending his team to Thailand will be "more beneficial than taking home all the chocolates in the basic kamos."

"If they exclude us in the SEA Games, what will they tell the other countries? Will they say that the Philippines couldn't send a hundred team for lack of funds?" said Navarro.

Navarro's words got swept in the Doha Asiad baseball competition, which culminated in a 14-0 thrashing by Thailand.

Despite the existence, the Philippine Sports Commission agree with Navarro.

"As far as the PSC is concerned, our baseball players are qualified to join the SEA Games," said deputy chef de mission Ritchie Garcia, one of the PSC commissioners who represents the government agency in the SEAG Task Force.

Fil-Am Walsh cops Olympic swim slot

By Jazmin Navarro

JAMES WALSH BECAME THE third Olympic qualifier for the national swimming team following an impressive feat in the men's 200-meter butterfly at the USA Swimming National Championships in Indiana on Monday.

With a clocking of 2:00.62, the pro-med scholar at the University of Florida (Gainesville) outpaced fellow Miguel Molina and Ryan Arabejo to the country's top berth for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Aside from snaring a slot in the Olympics, Walsh attached his own Philippine record of 2:01.94 set in the Doha Asian Games last year.

Walsh easily surpassed the Olympic qualifying time of 2:01.79 with the home crowd from Florida also topping the SEA Games record of 2:02.34 set by Jonathan Ang of Malaysia during the 2005 edition in Manila's capital.

Acclaimed as the biggest swimmer in the United States, the USA Senior Championships saw Walsh finishing in the top 16 after competing against Olympic and world champions Dave Torrance, Ann Wilm and Aaron Knowles.

"We're very proud of Jill Walsh," said swimming chief Mark Joseph, who was informed of Walsh's achievement yesterday morning.

"We are pleasantly surprised that he did so well this early in the season. It looks like our meets count for the SEA Games and the Olympics is really shaping up," the president of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association added.

Joseph said 53 Olympic coach Greg Troy Walsh's memory was expecting his son to compete for more feat in the semifinals of the same event.

Molina, a former Olympian, and Arabejo captured slots in the Olympics after impressive performances at the 12th Fina World Swimming Championships in Melbourne, Australia last March.

Filipino bankers Kan Ung and Miguel Navarro are also dreaming the national roster together with Walsh in the same fitness event. Tan's are if Ann Ji-yi and Mikee Encarna get populated up, and Walsh we will strike for more relay golds as well," said Joseph.

DOUBLE PLAY Gas Francisco Glaser second baseman Ray Durham turns the double play as Los Angeles Dodgers' James Loney (bottom) is out at second during the fourth inning of their baseball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday. Tim Glaser won 3-1.

WNC booters top Mighty tilt

WEST VISAYAS COLLEGE-A LEANED ON the end game heroics of last rising Jessen Jacobo to pull off a thrilling 1-0 win over Mighty's and crash the first Mighty 7 Asside Football Invitational held over the weekend in Bacolod City.

The 17-year-old Bacolo, who hails from concern-crazy Barotac in Iloilo City, went in the second on to dribble the ball with just 1:11 rules left in the 21-minute game to send the win for Binic Bayera College in the event presented by Mighty Sports Association.

The win-team went in the top of NBTC honors, cheered on loudly by their schoolmates, dominated the match from the start but failed to convert on several scorings.

Actually, it was a sweet revenge for WNC A following its 1-0 loss to Bhakayi in the preliminary round.

In the women's division, University of St. La Salle Bombowas, a team composed of the school's alumni, gave the current varsity squad some bosses by romping 6-4 win.

Guest time Bayong starred for ULSA Bombowas with their aggressive plays.

Hitman Wongbooking and Angela Wongbooking of Mighty Sports Association handed the prizes to the champs and runners-up. Also present during the event-ding were MSA president Dr. John Ey, Jean Up and Jean Mahinlets.

The tournaments named out to be a big hit that MSA plans to stage another event in the city in the near future.

In all, 16 teams took part in the men's side of the event organized by WNC and sanctioned by Negros Occidental Football Association.

Cebu's General Philippines University and a team backed-up by former national players also joined the event.

Bhakay's powers as all-WNC Bombo who led Binicol WNC-B to the semis, 2-0. WNC-A ousted Binicol WNC-B in the semis, 2-0. WNC-A ousted Binicol WNC-B in the semis, 2-0. WNC-A ousted Binicol WNC-B in

Get ready for the rest of your life.
UNLIMIT-IT

BUSINESS

Editor Raoul S. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mahinay

12 Every P300 =

Teves says fiscal performance back on track

Customs, BIR meet July collection targets

By Michelle V. Ares

CURRENCIES
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

WORKING TO RECOVER from a poor fiscal performance in the first half, the national government was estimated to have posted a lower-than-programmed budget deficit in July as revenue collections for the month exceeded the target.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday that the deficit was reported to settle below the official ceiling of P32 billion set for the month due to improved revenue collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and of customs and proceeds from privatization.

"Projects are favorable based on preliminary figures. If we were able to meet our tax revenue target and get the proceeds from the sale of government stake in PNOC-EDC, then it looks like we will be back on track (to meet the full-year fiscal target)," Teves said in remarks at the unveiling of the BIR's 107th anniversary celebration yesterday.

BPI Celebrating 156 Years of Banking Excellence

The BPI Network: Creating Customer Touch Points to Suit Your Lifestyle

Over the years, Bank of the Philippine Islands has been designing and redesigning its network to meet the changing times and the evolving lifestyle of its customers.

From bank-and-teller to virtual, from person-to-person to electronic, from ATM to mobile banking, BPI offers its clients a vast array of customer touch points to make their banking as convenient as possible. Today, as BPI marks this, it boasts of over 800 branches, more than 1,600 ATMs, 12,000 point of sale terminals and a 24/7 Call Center. And with its Express Money, Express Online and Express Mobile, one's landline, PC and cellphone is now part of the BPI network.

While its innovations in electronic banking may have been more noticeable, BPI has also made significant changes in its branch network – in location, in operating services for unique target markets and in the facilities such as within the branch.

BPI pioneered the branch-in-the-mall, which caters to individuals who are tied to the office on weekdays and who spend their weekends or after-office hours shopping. These mall-based outlets called BPI Express Banking Centers (EBC) allow shoppers to open and replace teller account and get the ATM card in 20 minutes. The EBC also handles applications for BPI credit cards, auto and housing loans, and Express Cash.

Even BPI's regular branches, although seemingly adhere to its offerings, provide more than general banking services. Some of them are specially designed to handle corporate requirements while others will cater to individuals with sophisticated financial and investment needs. Still, others will provide expertise in handling the needs of overseas Filipinos and their families.

But there's more. Last year, BPI started rolling out branches called BPI Express, catering to individuals who want fast, friendly service for their simple routine transactions and basic banking needs. The branch offers you complete electronic banking channels – ATM, phone and online banking – and an Express Services Counselor to teach and assist you in completing your transactions using these channels. Tellers are also on hand, as well as Express Sales Counselors to answer your queries and offer financial advice.

For its innovative concept, the BPI Express branch won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards. The award, given by the premier financial publication, The Banker, annually cites the best banking practices and innovations worldwide. BPI Express earned this citation beating other international banks.

Truly, banking has gone a long way with BPI's innovations in touch customer touch points. You can expect nothing less from a bank that takes its commitment to bring its customers further.

BPI@156
We'll take you further.

Another innovation from the Bank of the Philippine Islands

BPI EXPRESS: The Friendly Place to Bank

BPI Express branches offer teller-assisted transactions, self-service banking and financial advice. It won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards.

Time. Sometimes there's never enough. As everyone knows, time is money, and minutes matter. So the last thing you want is to spend time on routine tasks like banking. Just thinking about the lines – from the payday ATM rush to the long wait for the teller – can be stressful.

Even more stressful is not knowing how to do your transactions using the phone or the computer at the bank – it makes you wish someone took the time to help you figure things out. And when you want to consult about getting a loan or financial advice, you feel like everyone's listening in on what you're saying – the bank just doesn't seem private enough to talk about such matters.

But fret no more. Bank of the Philippine Islands has come up with a friendly solution – its newest branch type called BPI Express, now in more locations nationwide.

When you enter a BPI Express branch, you are immediately greeted by its friendly, clean and modern interior design.

It's a bank that's adapted for today's hurried lifestyle.

From the moment you enter the stylish, not-so-bank-looking bank, you notice the difference. The sunny decor, relaxed yet fast-moving mood and even the helpful, friendly BPI Express Counselors make it feel more like a boutique than a bank.

The BPI Express consultation area is designed to ease deep financial discussions with clients strictly private and confidential.

Basic transactions are quick and easy with the BPI Express Electronic Banking zone.

There you'll find BPI Express Teller ATMs, a phone for BPI Express Phone and a computer to access BPI Express Online. Plus, a BPI Express Services Counselor is there to help you every step of the way. Once you learn how to do it, you can do your banking from the comfort of your home or office.

BPI Express has friendly tellers on hand for your other transactions.

BPI Express caters to simple routine transactions, so lines at the tellers are short. Think of the whole branch as a supermarket Express Lane – a fast lane designed to move you through quickly and more pleasantly.

But the "Express" isn't just about speed; it's also about expression. Just tell us what you need, and we'll help you find it – not standing at a counter, but in the privacy and comfort of a personal workstation. Here, BPI Express Sales Counselors can give you simple, practical advice on loans, investments, financial planning and other money matters.

Our tellers are ready to assist you with your simple, routine transactions. They're very friendly and efficient and transactions are quick.

BPI Express offers private financial consultations.

So, if you want to have more control over your time and get friendly, fast service, come and visit the nearest BPI Express branch. You might just be surprised at how quick — and pleasant — your banking experience could be.

BPI Express Services Counselors are on hand to teach you about phone and online banking.

BPI Express branches: METRO MANILA: Alabang Loc - Las Piñas • Ayala Mall - Premiere Drive, Ortigas • A. Bonifacio - Mayden • E. Rodriguez Ave. - Araneta - Espeña - Bonifacio • G. Araneta Avenue • Intramuros - Legaspi • Makati - Ayala Ave. - San Miguel • Alcantara • Leviste • Makati Market • Pembroke Ave. - Parkwood • Quezon Ave. - E. Todoy • Shaw Blvd. • Amorsolo • Valero • Malate - Roxas Blvd. • Taft Ave. - Las Piñas • Taytay - P. Wenceslao • Batasang - Road 5 • Cubao - Santolan - Aurora • Farmers - Macapagal

PBCom stockholder pushes public bidding for 67% stake

By Dexter L. Lucas

THE LUY FAMILY, WHICH HOLDS THE single biggest block of shares in Philippine Bank of Communications (PBCom), yesterday said it would only sell its stake through a transparent public auction to be conducted by the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC).

The group stressed, however, that such sale must conform to and be in accordance with detailed procedures laid down in the Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) between PDIC and PBCom which mandates that a controlling interest or 67 percent of PBCom's shares should be sold on a block through public bidding.

The Luys own 38 percent of PBCom while the Ongpin-led Nobleza-Piddig hold 26 percent and 29 percent, respectively.

Says it's part of agreement with PDIC

"Through a public auction, all the major stockholders ... and not only the Luy Group—will benefit from the best price that can be obtained from all interested buyers consistent with the principles, objectives and policies contained in the FAA," the group stressed.

It clarified that contrary to reports that the Luys did not want to sell their stake to any person or entity other than De Lasin Sin group, the family was willing to sell to the highest bidder provided such sale was in accordance with the FAA signed on March 15, 2004.

New group buys 51% stake in Primetown

PRIMETOWN PROPerty Group Inc. said yesterday it has signed an agreement with a new investor, fast-track Building Solutions Inc., for the latter to acquire control of at least 51 percent in the listed real estate firm.

The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) suspended trading of shares of Primetown Property Group Inc. in late afternoon disclosure of substantial acquisitions and reverse takeovers.

Fast-track is led by its president, Miguel Montenegro. Its other information on the company was available as of press time.

Under a memorandum of agreement disclosed to the PSE, fast-track is willing to subscribe to the capital stock of Primetown as well as to increase the latter's assets and liabilities.

Fast-track will subscribe to 1 billion shares of Primetown's increase in capital stock at one centavo a share. Upon the implementation of the MOA, Primetown's name will be changed to Fast-track Land Inc. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo (second from left) and Tarlac Gov. Jose Yap (second from right) lead the PNB listing of shares on the PSE in Makati City, after raising a total of P250 million or P7.5 billion from the sale of new and secondary shares offered to both local and foreign investors. Also in photo are PNB president and CEO Orlan Byron T. Mier (right) and PNB chair Florencia Tarriela.

PNB lists add'l shares, sees P1.2-B net profit this year

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK (PNB) EXPECTS its second quarter net income to beat the P250.5 million it posted in the same quarter last year, buoyed by the growth in consumer loans, overseas remittances and deposits. PNB president Orlan Mier said.

PNB is targeting a P1.2 billion net income for 2007.

Mier said the bank has managed to grow by 20 to 25 percent a year for the past three years.

"This year we can expect the same performance, and the second quarter is better compared to last year," he said.

PNB yesterday listed new shares after raising a total of P250 million or P7.5 billion from a follow-on offering in local and foreign investors.

Of the total proceeds, P3.3 billion will go to the bank while P4.2 billion will go to parent, which exited from the bank through the sale of its remaining 12.5-percent stake.

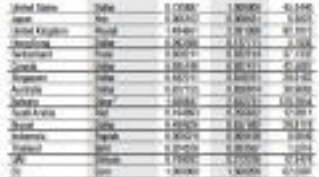
UBS Investment Bank, which acted as the bank's issuer and manager, said the bank's international offer was two times oversubscribed.

PNB opened at P37.50 a share yesterday lower than its offer price of P39 and down 3% from its previous traded price of P45.

PNB said its offer price for the new shares represented a 1.4-percent discount to the said bank's trading average of the prior for the 30 trading days ending July 12. It was also a 9.2-percent discount to P43, a share, the bank's highest trading price in the 52 weeks to July 13.

Mier also said that the bank was expected to firm up a deal by the end of the year with Philippine Investment Alliance for Infrastructure (PIAI) for the sale of P4 billion worth of tilt assets. Two chunks of this amount represent idle properties and the cost of a bad hotel.

Stocks down 2.1%



August 1, 2007 Country	Bid	Unit Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.370000	1.000000	43.8400
Japan	Yen	163.3400	119.2263	5.4687
United Kingdom	Pound	0.6840	1.991000	87.3051
Hong Kong	Dollar	10.7000	7.810219	0.3424
Switzerland	Franc	1.2070	0.880948	38.6160
Canada	Dollar	1.3120	0.957737	42.0000
Singapore	Dollar	1.8670	1.362591	59.7440
Australia	Dollar	1.2450	0.908759	39.8448
Taiwan	Dollar	33.0000	24.087591	1,060.8000
South Korea	Won	914.0000	667.153285	29,251.2000
Brunei	Dollar	1.8420	1.344526	58.9373
Indonesia	Rupiah	9.3050	6.791058	0.0096
Thailand	Baht	33.4500	24.416058	1.0951
UAE	Dirham	5.0300	3.671533	0.1616
Qatar	Riyal	5.0000	3.649635	0.1600
Kuwait	Dinar	0.3870	0.282482	12.3840
China	Yuan	10.0000	7.299270	0.3200
Argentina	Peso	3.1540	2.301971	94.6160
Brazil	Real	2.0010	1.460584	64.0320
Denmark	Krone	7.4500	5.437956	0.2384
Norway	Krone	7.8000	5.693431	0.2496
Malaysia	Ringgit	3.3150	2.419708	10.6080
Mexico	New Peso	10.8650	7.930657	0.3477
New Zealand	Dollar	1.4070	1.026861	45.0240
Indonesia	Lira	1.5250	1.113139	0.0488
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	5.1400	3.751825	0.1645
Sweden	Krona	7.1000	5.182482	0.2272
Syria	Pound	0.0440	0.032117	0.0014
Taiwan	NT Dollar	33.0000	24.087591	1.0608

Source: Bankers' Trade Association of the Philippines, June 11, 2007

* Peso-dollar rate based on August 1, 2007

AFP

Teves says fiscal performance back on track

From page B1

The goal of limiting the deficit at or below P211 billion in July requires the collection of P87.1 billion in revenues and keeping spending to not more than P168.1 billion.

The government in July sold a 20-percent stake in Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) for P16.6 billion.

In a separate interview, Internal Revenue Commissioner Lilian Hefti said that preliminary figures showed that the BIR met its P51.276-billion target for the month.

The BOC said in a statement that it collected P21 billion in duties and taxes on imported goods last month, exceeding its goal of P19.46 billion.

Combining revenues by the BIR, the BOC and proceeds from PNOC-EDC, the government has already exceeded its total revenue target of P97.1 billion.

Limiting the deficit within program, however, not only entails meeting the revenue target but keeping expenditures within the ceiling. Teves could not say yet how expenditures were in July, but said that assuming spending was within the program, then the deficit would fall below P21 billion.

Hefti attributed the BIR's ability to meet its July collection target to tightened tax audit and the enhancement of programs in collecting taxes.

In the first half, the BIR collected P334.7 billion, falling short by P18.6 billion of its P353.3-billion goal for the six-month period.

For the entire year, the BIR is tasked to collect P703.4 billion.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the BOC was able to exceed its goal for July because of revenue-enhancement programs, including the collection of customs' frauds, intensified in May, after the formation of task forces, and tightening in post-entry audit of goods shipped to the Philippines.

The BOC collected P91.2 billion in the first half of the year, falling short of its 19.95-billion goal for the first six months. For the entire year, the BOC is tasked to collect P128.2 billion.

The government has set a goal of limiting the budget deficit to P63 billion this year, lower than last year's P64.8 billion.

Meralco rates seen to be RP's highest

Group says power distributors in Cebu, Davao charge a lot less

By Abigail L. Ho

CUSTOMERS OF THE LOPEZ-LED Manila Electric Co. are subject to the highest distribution charges in the country, with the distribution utility's rates comparatively above those of its counterparts in other urban centers such as Cebu and Davao.

According to a study by the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC), apart from the Meralco group, Meralco's residential and commercial customers have to pay a distribution charge of P1.0645 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), a supply system charge of $2.71 centavos per kWh and metering fees of 24.28 centavos per kWh.

In contrast, customers of the Mandaue Mactan Electric Co. (Mecs) in Metro Cebu are being charged only P1.0773 per kWh for distribution, 27.12 centavos for supply services and 19.24 centavos per kWh for metering services.

Compared with Mecs, Meralco's charges for the three items were 97.8 percent higher.

On the other hand, in Davao City, customers of another Aboitiz-owned company, Davao Light and Power Co., are also being charged P1.2499 per kWh for distribution, 66 for supply services and 22.49 centavos per kWh for metering services.

This means that, for those three revenue items, Meralco is charging as much as 60 percent higher, FDC said.

According to FDC, the figures in the study were derived from the electricity bills of actual consumers in the Meralco, Mecs and Davao Light franchise areas.

The group said that, according to power industry experts it consulted for the study, Meralco should actually be charging less than its Cebu and Davao counterparts as it had greater economies of scale.

"The Meralco franchise area is larger, more modern, and more compact," FDC said. "Meralco has more customers per square kilometer of area or per kilometer of distribution lines. Their distribution costs per customer, therefore, should be a lot less than the much smaller cities of Cebu and Davao."

The group added that, with a system demand of 5,400 megawatts (MW), as compared with 200 MW for Cebu and 250 MW for Davao, Meralco was in a better position to exploit scale costs.

FDC said that, if the power distributor's "main concern is to provide the lowest to cheapest power rates to its consumers—as the public franchise that the government gave it demands—then Meralco 'could' demand lower prices for a lot of the inefficiencies and inefficiencies that its distribution services ... bring a huge distribution burden that would add a lot of cheer."

"Instead, there are no sentiment and economic reasons why Meralco charges for its services should be so expensive," it added. "The disparity is just too big."

Subic exports from Jan to June up 41%

By Ramon W. Domingo

EXPORT EARNINGS FROM THE SUBIC Freeport increased 41 percent in the first half to $414.5 million on account of semiconductors and electronic components, according to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

SBMA data show that, as of end-June, revenues from outbound exports increased by $120 million compared to the year-ago figure.

The agency cited constant top-earner Watson Industries (Philippines) Corp. and Hanjin Subic Philippines Corp. as largely responsible for the upturn.

Watson, the local arm of Taiwan's Pihsiang Corp., manufactures motherboards and laptop computer units, and is the largest export earner in Subic.

Hanjin, the Philippine Corp. arm of Japan's Hyundai Corp., is part of the multinational's global network of production bases that churns out small precision motors.

Also, SBMA said the Freeport was a net importer of merchandise during the first half since imports—which rose by 8 percent—reached $743.4 million.

The value of cargoes that were unshipped through Subic to other destinations grew fast, reaching $268.9 million.

But SBMA expects future growth in the traffic of cargoes to it approved in the first semester round of 64 new projects.

Although the number was less than those approved in the same period last year, the investors lately promises to meet $1.38 billion in committed investments, 2 percent higher than last year's $1.36 billion.

Also in the first half, the projected number of new jobs created slid by 8 percent to 11,378 from 12,400.

However, SBMA is banking on South Korean shipbuilding giant Hyundai Heavy Industries and Taiwan's Evergreen Group to help stimulate, in its $699-million project expected to contribute a total of 8,300 new jobs once in full swing.

At present, Hanjin directly employs 7,315 shipbuilding employees and an average of 3,000 construction workers.

IPVG buys US call center solutions provider

ICT COMPANY IPVG CORP. HAS bought a business processing outsourcing (BPO) subsidiary, IP Contact Center Outsourcing Inc. (IPCCO), acquired the assets of call center solutions provider Globalwatch Corp. and Globalwatch Holdings Ltd., for $1.5 million.

Globalwatch is a UK-based provider of outsourced call center solutions that primarily serves international and outbound voice support. Its clients are mostly located in the US, Europe.

Under the purchase agreement, IPVG acquired the fixed assets and material contracts of Globalwatch Corp. as well as the accounts of its holding company.

IPVG CEO Jaime Dominguez said the acquisition will help IPVG grow its BPO business.

"The Globalwatch deal was an attractive proposition for us since it comes on our control system business from 60 seats to a total of 350 seats," he said.

Rino T. Olchondra

Canadian company sees another stand-alone mine in Zamboanga

CANADIAN MINING FIRM TVI Pacific Inc. announced that its Philippine unit found "further positive results" from drilling under its Zamboanga del Sur licensing as mineral prospects in the country.

The firm is now preparing to ramp up its assessment of mineral deposits in the Balabag property within the quarry.

Following our recent announcement of extensive exploration drilling, we are pleased to see more positive results from our ongoing exploration efforts and recently completed drilling campaign," said Cliff Jones, TVI chief executive.

"The newly discovered vein expansions potentially extend the mineralized zones," Jones added. "With the veins open to depth and with their lateral extensions potential, it appears that there is the opportunity to grow the deposit with further work."

Most recent drilling results from 5.4 meters long yielded an average of 3.99 g/ton of gold per ton of ore and 29.0 grams per ton (gpt) of silver, which is equivalent to 0.38 gpt of gold.

Samples from 4 meters channel a higher concentration of gold averaging at 6.21 gpt and 106.27 gpt of silver, or 0.10 gpt to gold ratio.

Further, Jones said TVI expected to see preliminary results from its ongoing scoping study for the next week, adding that the development zones were very encouraging.

In mining parlance, a scoping study refers to the assessment of occurring mineral deposits to provide an outline of a prospect's economic potential.

Positive results of a scoping study prompts a company to commence a feasibility study, a more focused to a full feasibility assessment and detailed engineering for the project, which Jones said was what TVI is currently doing.

TVI Resource and Development (Philippines) Inc. is currently doing such a study to assess the Tinago-Mana-Lalim mineralized zone at Balabag. The initial results from which are expected within this month.

The study is slated to determine whether the Balabag project could stand alone as a commercial mining operation or enhance to TVIRD's other mining operations in the area.

The Balabag property is located 75 km east southeast of PITRO, producing a transient mine, which in the first quarter ended 11,300 gold equivalent ounces, up 14 percent compared to the year-ago output in the comparative period.

The company also made its initial expenses for the Canonoy and Alpha—copper and zinc—exploration programs, which is expected to be its cash flow engine starting next year.

Ernest B. Borinaga

Belle Corp. nets P93.6M in 1st half

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TAGAYTAY HOMES DEVELOPER Belle Corp. reported a consolidated net income of P93.6 million for the first half, a 70 percent rise over P55.2 million during the same period in 2000.

In its financial statement filed with the stock exchange, it said net revenues from operating interests for the first six months reached P277.6 million. This was down by 4 percent compared with the P284.5 million posted during the same period in 2000.

However, the company said its gross sales, or total value of property sales of all sales and reservations booked during the period, hit P690.7 million as of June 30. This was almost triple from the 2000 level of P222.4 million, due to the favorable market reception for Belle's newest upscale residential project, Lakeside Terrace.

For PPA, North Harbor bid back to square one

By Rico T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHority (PPA) will again invite real and prequalify prospective bidders for the Manila North Harbor within the month.

Lucas Tacalos, last proceedings for the terminal was declared a failure because only one company—the lone Center Port Terminals Inc.—was deemed eligible to bid for the 20-year concession to operate and develop the North Harbor.

Center Port Terminals Inc. (CPTI), which already operates South Harbor, was deemed to have deficiencies and was not allowed to bid.

PPA could have proceeded with the bidding even with one bidder—a joint venture to be formed by Harbour Centre and Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

But the regulator said it decided to call a new round to get the lowest tariff rates possible.

As PPA General Manager Oscar Lagleva explained in an earlier interview, the regulator has done away with the old method of choosing the bidder with the best revenue plan.

Instead, he said, the PPA will now seek the company that can offer the lowest tariff rates. Its first move, under existing rules at the time, Harbour Center could submit a new offer for the North Harbor individually or in partnership with Metro Pacific, which was found to have deficiencies.

Over the last two weeks, the PPA failed to announce the company that will bid pursuant to the terminal.

Bidding documents for consumers, saying that the PPA would announce its decision "soon."

Other PPA sources last month said that the agency was set to award just the bidding schedules to buy more time to decide whether to disqualify ATI and MITC.

Originally, PPA had 15 calendar days from the opening of the bid documents last July 2 to check if all the documentary requirements were in order.

On July 16, the agency should have released the bidding documents, which include the terms of reference (TOR) for privatization.

This is because Balabag, more than members can prepare their offer, which are expected to be submitted on Oct. 17, the day the documents are scheduled to be opened. PPA has yet to clarify whether the date of opening the bid documents will be initialed, saying it has not decided on the matter.

NFA builds grains highway

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORity will set aside an initial P2 billion for the agency's grains and fisheries infrastructure program, also known as "the grains highway."

NFA Administrator Jessup F. Navarro said the agency would focus on improving grains post-harvest facilities to ensure that farmers benefit both for rice and corn.

Of the estimated 21.3 million metric tons of palay produced last year, about 14 percent, or some 2.14 million metric tons, of the harvest was lost in post-harvest, Navarro said.

An 65 percent milling recovery, the losses are equivalent to 1.39 million kegs of rice, which could have otherwise helped the country's efforts to be self-sufficient and reducing the remittance of hunger and poverty, he said.

"Post-harvest losses remain one of the biggest stumbling blocks in the Philippine's quest for sufficiency in rice supply," Navarro noted.

The agency he said, will initially improve its existing mechanical grains dryers prior to the scheduled bidding for the supply delivery installation and commissioning of nine units of biomass dryers.

According to Navarro, the biomass dryers will be introduced into the agency's existing nine units of 6 tons per batch mechanical dryers. The nine mechanical dryers purchased early 2000 cost P1.35 million.

"The biomass-fired dryer will [reduce] our expenses on fuel utilization in grains drying, while making good use of the [rice] hull," the NFA chief said.

With the related fuel expenses on grains drying, the NFA can encourage the farming sector to use the agency's heated-air mechanical grain dryers. "This will afford them the opportunity to produce quality grains that could demand a better price in the market," he said.

The agency also plans to purchase 176 additional units of biomass-fired dryer and establish new centers to serve the major corn producing areas in Luzon and Mindanao and Visayas.

FOR THE FINEST IN PHILIPPINE ART VISIT :
www.gallerybig.com

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A LOW-RISK INVESTMENT THAT OFFERS BETTER AND STABLE RETURNS, THEN CONSIDER
BPI SHORT TERM FUND.
It is ideal for those who are looking to invest over the short to medium term, or business interest projects like a home renovation or a family vacation.
The Fund is invested in a diversified portfolio of highly marketable fixed-income securities and Deposit Substitutes, and investing at a minimum initial amount of P10,000. Subsequent investments are at a minimum of P10,000.
Let's start talking about what you want and what suits you best. Call the Treasury Marketing Team at 845-5555/8845-5555 or 891-0000/8891-0000 or visit any BPI/BPI Family Bank Branch and let your BPI Relationship Manager assist you through a Client-Suitability Test.
BPI ASSET MANAGEMENT
Put Your Trust In Our Name

People, Events & Products

Elmer Anton Espinosa

Fly to Singapore the quick and easy way, with GCash and Jetstar Asia

PCE HOLDS CONGOSTO IN CEBU

1st Philippine Int'l Motor Show to open at World Trade Center

FIRST LIFE MEETS CHINA'S LARGEST INSURER

HCCA WELCOMES HEALTHCARE COMPANY OFFICERS

BPSF'S LUNCH WITH THE COACH

MARC NELSON FOR KENNY ROGERS ROASTERS

UBOC X CHAMPIONS

The Swire Elan Suites

Hari joins Go Negosyo Caravan

MCM Fellowship Dinner, 2nd Alumni Homecoming Celebration

Bonding, learning with orthodontists in Cebu

Expert develops cure for bad breath

USTH-BCI's 1st Cancer Conference

Qatar Airways appoints new area manager

JBIC starts crafting 27th yen loan package

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE JAPAN BANK FOR INTERnational Cooperation (JBIC) has finally agreed to craft the 27th yen loan package for the Philippines, as he approved a $600-P9.4 billion worth of infrastructure projects.

This development came after the Japanese and Philippine governments finally settled their disagreement on value-added tax (VAT) on projects funded by JBIC loans.

The issue stemmed from the imposition by the Bureau of International Revenue of some P600 million in VAT on the construction of JBIC-funded projects, most of whom are Japanese firms. The contractors had supposedly been exempted from the VAT since the project was funded by the Japanese government.

JBIC held off talks with the Philippine government on the 27th yen loan package pending the resolution of the issue.

Gov't agencies to cover VAT on ODA-funded projects

Rolando Tungpalan, deputy director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said in a press conference yesterday that the Department of Budget and Management had agreed to allocate a budget for the VAT liabilities arising from the implementation of JBIC-funded projects.

Previously, erring Japanese contractors will no longer be held liable for the VAT on JBIC-funded projects.

Tungpalan said that from now on, to avoid similar conflicts in the future, implementing agencies would allocate a portion of their individual budgets for VAT on ODA-funded projects.

The P9.4 billion worth of loans to be approved by JBIC for the 27th yen loan package for the Philippines will cover the P5.1-billion Japanese Railway Safety and Technical Assistance Support Project Phase II and the P3.45-billion Mandaluyong-Marikina Grade Separation Project Phase II.

The first project will be implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform. This involves the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation systems, postharvest and processing facilities, and potable water supply systems in 34 provincial service units.

The Mandaluyong-Marikina Grade Separation Project covers flood control works for the Pasig-Marikina River Channel and the construction of bridges, and raising of major roads in communities surrounding Mt. Fuji rivers in Pampanga.

Tungpalan said other projects might be included in the 27th yen loan package. The 26th yen loan package, which covered 2003 to 2006, amounted to P5.096 billion.

JBIC is one of the biggest lenders to the Philippines government. The others are the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

The national government has programmed to borrow P1.469 billion this year in the form of official development assistance (ODA) to pursue its agenda of developing the country's infrastructure system and improving the delivery of social services despite constituent revenues.

The government has adopted the policy of tapping more ODAs than foreign commercial borrowings to save on cost. ODAs charge much lower interest rate than commercial institutions.

The government's foreign commercial borrowing program for this year is $1 billion. Besides the need to plug the budget deficit, the need to put maturing obligations in securities remains the government reserve to borrow.

15 years of 'texting' in Asia

THE MOBILE PHONE INDUSTRY recently celebrated the 15th year of the Short Message Service Center (SMSC), the principal application behind mobile phone text messaging.

The application was introduced in the market by Aerotel, then known as Logica/MKI Telecom Products, in 1992. The first ever SMSC was introduced as a product designed primarily to deal with the demands of a developing mobile industry, and in that year, the first of its many clients was signed by Telecom New Zealand (TNZ), one of Asia's leading network operators.

The SMSC infrastructure has since evolved from a basic "SMSC box" to a complete IP-based IMS architecture. The mobile text management, a wide range of differentiating service scenarios and a single SMS capacity of 15,000 messages per second, have since grown to virtually unlimited levels.

SMSC innovation has continued to thoroughfares, Shanghai, Tianjin, Qingdao, Dalian, Taiwan and Hong Kong, and saw new operators venture types of messaging firsts for the shipment of correspondence, bulk services, ad tendons as well as specialized carriers.

Cosco's ships and containers call on some 1,000 ports in at least 160 countries and operate worldwide.

Cosco picks two sites for $3-B project

By Ramond W. Dominguez

CHINESE SHIPPING GIANT COSCO Container Shipping Co. is exploring between Bataan's Poro and Subic, the province's businessmen to its Asian cargo hub worth at least $3 billion, Tarzing sent both sides closing a risk-laver last month.

Francis Chua, presidential adviser on China trade and investment, said in an interview that a team of experts from Cosco's diverse operations in the region had seen the advantages of both locations and that the group did not want to jump to conclusions.

"It is something similar but month, half of the team visited Bataan's Poro—the subject of an executive order mandating its development into an international logistics hub—while another team visited Subic," he said, noting a seamless center-sided mix.

"[They] want simpler than because of its nearness to Manila, and Subic, because it offers the best options for eventual expansion, or operations," Chua said. "They found the two areas really attractive."

He said the team would meet up with Cosco top brass in Beijing to consolidate and assess their findings, and to figure out their next steps.

Part of what they would decide on would be a second visit and how to go into a more detailed approach to realize their shipping hub," he said.

Chua, who is also president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said everything was still subject to a comprehensive assessment and feasibility analysis.

Earlier, he said that while Cosco was looking at Bataan and Subic, local government units there and other provinces across the country were offering alternative sites for the project.

In an earlier interview, he said Cosco was prepared to find the entire hill for the development of whichever one would be chosen, including land reclamation and port construction.

He said Cosco was fully committed to have a cargo hub in the Philippines, which would be a gathering point for shipments from all over the region on the way to the United States.

Cosco's mega vessels load some 4,000 containers at one port and a container and it about 10 hectares to 100 hectares.

Founded in 1961 as a pioneering state-owned shipping carrier in China, Cosco is a $17-billion corporation whose portfolio services in freight forwarding, shipping, terminal operation, trade, financing, real estate and information technology industry.

Cosco owns and operates a variety of ships-load fleet of some 600 vessels with a total carrying capacity of up to 31 million dead weight tons, which helps accommodate a steady workflow volumes of at least 100 million tons.

The group has subsidiaries operations in Guangzhou, Shanghai, Tianjin, Qingdao, Dalian, Taiwan and Hong Kong, and owns and operates various types of ocean shipping fleets for the shipment of correspondence, bulk services, ad tendons as well as specialized carriers.

Cosco's ships and containers call on some 1,000 ports in at least 160 countries and operate worldwide.

The voters of Mindanao

MARIANO WORLD

Joji Bagaoisan Alsua

THE LATEST ELECTIONS INDICATED HOW formidable elections in this part of the country are.

From votes above 10 million voters, Mindanao got only one senator seat and the winning candidate was only known more than a month after the May polls. The irony was that those racing to occupy this last seat were both Mindanao natives. Former Sen. Roco Miguel Zubiri of the opposition Buhisbisan (who eventually won the seat) and last September deputies Rodolfo El of indigenous senior Cagayan de Oro City.

The latter elections reflected what has been happening in Mindanao during elections. Our voters counted get there act together to choose a leader who will lead our just Mindanao, but the whole country.

Mindanao had a vice president, and it was only two years since every area resident took the oath as elected but he might succeed. That was in 2004, when then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was catapulted to the presidency after then President Joseph Estrada left Malacañang, creating a scenario that was occupied by Sen. Teofisto Guingona Jr. who is from Cagayan City in Misamis.

But Mindanao voters have still to get their act together. It would have persuaded the central government to appropriate more funds for development.

And why is this?

Settlers' haven

One logical explanation is that many voters in Mindanao, being a settlers' haven, get hard to consolidate their votes because their forebearers or ancestors came from. Also, there is a good number of Mindanao leaders who, more often than not, associate themselves with their own kind. Mindanao is a land of many tribes, and it is not surprising that the voters are also divided.

Even those who consider themselves natives of the island most often get blinded by the glitter of money. Politicians in the provinces, the very fact that they can only continue staying in the golden chair of authority for so long as their "vassals" continue to believe in their empty promises.

Another big reason is that Mindanao is heavily polarized both by ethnic and religious politics. In terms of political division, even members of one family fight one another just to get a coveted position.

And just like the political landscape of Our whole country, there are also Mindanao leaders and voters who get swayed by the lure of cheap money.

If this continues to take place, where will the next Mindanao? Many Mindanaoans, especially the young voters, believe it is time for everyone who loves Mindanao must get their acts together and work for the island's progress prosperity. It is high time for the Mindanao people to redefine their mould set, because they owe this to Mindanao and to the next generation.

Mindanao voice

So what must be the strategy? Do people of Mindanao vote for those from Mindanao even if they will mean doom? Or do we vote for a non-Mindanaoan also, but whose vision is pro-Mindanao?

It is time to redefine ourselves on the issues of the Mindanao votes in shaping the future. If we do not vote as one united voice, then the national government will continue to give an inane attention because we cannot muster enough clout to turn the table in our side.

Our suggestion is to advocate stronger in the election areas of the word that Mindanao politicians serve the interest of Mindanaoans. This is hard to do, one might comment, but time again it is always better to take the risk than to be left behind. Mindanao is a land of many tribes, and it is not surprising that the voters are also divided.

Even those who consider themselves natives of the island most often get blinded by the glitter of money. Politicians in the provinces, the very fact that they can only continue staying in the golden chair of authority for so long as their "vassals" continue to believe in their empty promises.

Another big reason is that Mindanao is heavily polarized both by ethnic and religious politics. In terms of political division, even members of one family fight one another just to get a coveted position.

And just like the political landscape of Our whole country, there are also Mindanao leaders and voters who get swayed by the lure of cheap money.

If this continues to take place, where will the next Mindanao? Many Mindanaoans, especially the young voters, believe it is time for everyone who loves Mindanao must get their acts together and work for the island's progress prosperity. It is high time for the Mindanao people to redefine their mould set, because they owe this to Mindanao and to the next generation.

Mindanao voice

So what must be the strategy? Do people of Mindanao vote for those from Mindanao even if they will mean doom? Or do we vote for a non-Mindanaoan also, but whose vision is pro-Mindanao?

It is time to redefine ourselves on the issues of the Mindanao votes in shaping the future. If we do not vote as one united voice, then the national government will continue to give an inane attention because we cannot muster enough clout to turn the table in our side.

Our suggestion is to advocate stronger in the election areas of the word that Mindanao politicians serve the interest of Mindanaoans. This is hard to do, one might comment, but time again it is always better to take the risk than to be left behind.

Send your feedback to Mariano World at mindanaoworld@yahoo.com.

PNOC unit teams up with Korean company

By Abigail L. Ha

PNOC ALTERNATIVE FUELS Corp. (PNOC-AFC), a subsidiary of Philippine National Oil Co., has signed a memorandum of understanding with Korean firm ECO Solutions Co. Ltd. for the establishment of jatropha plantations and oil mills in the country.

Under the MOU, which was signed last Tuesday, the joint venture will establish a minimum of 150,000 hectares of jatropha plantations, the necessary land for which would be provided by PNOC-AFC.

The sale of the land could be increased once the initial land requirement is met, the MOU specified. This would be in part of the joint venture agreement that the parties would eventually forge.

Jatropha is used in the biodiesel industry as a source of oil. It can also be used as a source of fuel for power generation.

The people of Mindanao must not shut their eyes to the opportunities that are there for them that we have the power to make our site as president to ensure by making Mindanao a powerful voting block.

Lloyd Ligan Bacia is an advocate for the development of Mindanao, and chair of Ang Kapatid Mindanawon, Inc. and Ang Kapatid Alliance and Mindanao Talk Site Schools. (lacia@yahoo.com). E-mail comments to pa@mindanaoworld.com.)

The oil mills' output would be sold to Global Biodiesel Inc. Bird, a subsidiary of ECO Solutions.

A 10-year agreement for the supply of crude jatropha oil would be signed between the joint venture and Global Biodiesel, which would specify the price and volume commitments. The joint venture, however, would also keep surplus oil for its own consumption.

PNOC-AFC said ECO Solutions will continue negotiations for the joint venture deal, which should include the land size requirement, investment and cost and a definitive drawing schedule.

Last May, PNOC-AFC inked an MOU with Bristol Firm MG Chemical Engineering Pte. Ltd. for a $1.3-billion investment in the country's biodiesel industry.

PNOC-AFC is also working on a possible $1-billion agreement with Tim Engineer Group Ltd. for the establishment of a jatropha nursery and plantation in Bicol country.

Neda worried over agencies' cost overrun

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPment Authority has raised concerns over the tendency of some government agencies to spend on projects beyond their approved budgets, saying this has hampered the implementation of other infrastructures.

Neda Asst. Dir. Rodolfo Tungpalan said spending by agencies on projects that were funded by official development assistance had exceeded by P36.4 billion the costs approved by the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC).

The Philippine government agencies were supposed to limit their spending on projects within the budgets approved by the ICC, said Neda officials of the agencies that spend more than the approved levels should be held liable.

Roderick Planta, director of the Neda's project monitoring staff, said in a press conference yesterday that that the P36.4-billion cost overrun meant government agencies had been spending 34 percent more than the approved costs of their projects.

According to cases of approved budget is automatically shouldered by the implementing agency except when the lending institution agrees to accommodate it.

"Cost overruns eat into an agency's budget, leaving less or nothing for other projects. We have to put an end to this practice if we want to speed up projects, which sometimes become a source of corruption," Neda Director General Romulo Neri said in his press conference.

Neri, who will inaugurate talks head the Committee on Higher Education starting this month, said spending by government agencies should be monitored more tightly as some have taken budget limits for granted.

A report presented to the press showed that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) exceeded by the biggest cost overrun at P13.6 billion. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) followed with P6.97 billion.

Other agencies that spent more than the approved budget for ODA-funded projects were: the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (P5.46 billion), National Irrigation Administration (P4.62 billion), Light Rail Transit Authority (P4.1 billion) and Philippine Ports Authority (P3.56 billion).

Michelle V. Rivera

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Various Uninterruptible Power Supply

The **Pag-IBIG FUND**, through its Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology Resources (**BAC-ITR**), intends to apply the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Various Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Item No.	Qty./ Unit	Item Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
I	6 units	Uninterruptible Power Supply – Category A	
II	20 units	Uninterruptible Power Supply – Category B	
III	46 units	Uninterruptible Power Supply – Category C	
IV	1 set	UPS Enterprise Management Tool	
			P 6,397,551.00

The **Pag-IBIG FUND** now invites bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of Various Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, viz:

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and as mandated by Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a foreign country whose laws, or agencies in that country, extend to Filipino citizens and to corporations, partnerships or associations wholly owned by such citizens, equivalent privileges in procurement of goods, domestic contracts, and services, subject to reciprocity.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Pag-IBIG FUND and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BAC-ITR Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, during regular office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-ITR Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, starting August 2, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00), and to be submitted personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-ITR Secretariat, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, starting August 2, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00), and to be submitted personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Pag-IBIG FUND will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at August 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in Session Hall, Room 602, 7th Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, or 3 days after the last purchase of Bidding Documents, whichever is earlier.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00 P.M. of August 21, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on August 21, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. in Session Hall, Room 602, 7th Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The Pag-IBIG FUND, Head Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Wilfredo Nacino S. Reyes and Jose Mario M. Diaz at 911-0252/924-9510 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at gsd@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

By:

(Sgd.) FRANCIS T. SANTOS
Officer-in-Charge
Computer Services Group
Acting Chair, BAC-ITR

(PEI) August 2, 2007

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Pag-IBIG FUND**, through the Bids and Awards Committee – Information Technology Resources (BAC-ITR), intends to apply the sum of **One Billion Two Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,287,500.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of the following IT Equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Qty./ Unit	Item Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
25 units	Desktop Computers – Developers	P 1,287,500.00

The **Pag-IBIG FUND** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the abovementioned items. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and as mandated by Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a foreign country whose laws, or agencies in that country, extend to Filipino citizens and to corporations, partnerships or associations wholly owned by such citizens, equivalent privileges in procurement of goods, domestic contracts, and services, subject to reciprocity.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Pag-IBIG FUND and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BAC-ITR Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, starting August 2, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-ITR Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00), and to be submitted personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **Pag-IBIG FUND** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on August 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in Session Hall, Room 602, 7th Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City or 3 days after the last purchase of Bidding Documents, whichever is earlier.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00 P.M. of August 21, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on August 21, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. in Session Hall, Room 602, 7th Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The **Pag-IBIG FUND** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Wilfredo Nacino S. Reyes and Jose Mario M. Diaz at 911-0252/924-9510 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at gsd@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

By:

(Sgd.) FRANCIS T. SANTOS
Officer-in-Charge
Computer Services Group
Acting Chair, BAC-ITR

(PEI) August 2, 2007

NREA, HUDCC launch housing confab fair

REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS and their constituents in the current boom in housing and real estate business, the National Real Estate Association (NREA) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) are jointly sponsoring the 12th NREA HOUSE National Convention and Housing Trade Exhibits.

The year's mega property and real estate event is slated on Sept. 27 to 30 at the Ayala Hall of Makati Sports Club, Makati City.

Heading the convention, a new day housing trade exhibition will be staged on Sept. 30 and 31 at the Ayala Mall's Glorietta 4 Open Grass that will feature the top of the line housing and property developers, realty companies and technologies.

With a theme "A Better Dwelling in Philippines 2010: Setting Local Selling Hubs, Developing Towns", the convention, to be participated in by some 400 delegates will provide the venue for all realty stakeholders to keep themselves updated in business technologies and processes.

The 12th NREA HOUSE Convention and Trade Exhibits provides the highlights of the government-initiated celebration of the National Urban Development Week held every last June 30 every year.

CREBA pre-convention workshop "RPO: Its Impact on Real Estate"

A PRE-CONVENTION workshop has been scheduled on Aug. 22 in preparation for the 2007 Cesba Convention. The workshop will be held from 2-5 p.m. at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Titled "RPO: Its Impact on Real Estate", the pre-convention will focus on investor's guide on the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) and its visa programs, the different visa beneficiaries in the opening of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) in the country.

Ms. Angel Lontoc, chair of the pre-convention workshop for the 2007 Cesbo Convention, has lined up its following speakers: Lontoc, Vice National Director of Sales of Avida Land's prominent Southern Tagalog Sales Management Force; Atty. Jose Luis Lorenzo, Jr. and Jesse D. Mella, VP-PLDT and President of the Philippine Internet Chamber of Commerce (PAEC-IPC).

Registration is Php 1,500 for members and P750 for non-members.

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE REPLACEMENT, DELAMPING AND DEWATTING OF EXISTING LIGHTING FIXTURES OF PAG-IBIG FUND CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee Goods & Services intends to apply the sum of Pesos: Million Four Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Nine Pesos (PM 1,449,499.00) being the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply of Labor and Materials for the replacement, delamping and dewattage of existing lighting fixtures of Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply of Labor and Materials for the replacement, delamping and dewattage of existing lighting fixtures of Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters. The contract shall be completed within Fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a foreign country whose laws or agencies in that country, extend to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass this eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine compliance of the Bid and qualifications of the Bidder. The criteria for post-qualification shall have been provided in the Invited Consultant and Prequalified Bidder (ICPB) who was determined on such identified post-qualification checklist.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Pag-IBIG Fund and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BAC-ITR Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting August 2, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders at the BAC-ITR Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00), and to be submitted personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Pag-IBIG Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at August 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in Session Hall, Room 602, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, or 3 days after the last purchase of Bidding Documents, whichever is earlier.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00 P.M. of August 21, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on August 21, 2007 at the Session Hall, Room 602, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City at 2:00 P.M. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The Pag-IBIG Fund, Head Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Wilfredo Nacino S. Reyes and Jose Mario M. Diaz at 911-0252/924-9510 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at gsd@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
GOODS AND SERVICES

By:

(Sgd.) DELIA L. BERNARDO
Vice-President
Administration Group
Vice-Chair, BAC-GS

(PEI) August 2, 2007

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomic Services Administration (PAGASA)
Science Garden, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100

PS No. 168-01-002
WCDS Object Series System
Weapons Control Officer
Signal of Fund: Director-Weapons Through Enhanced Weather
and Climate Forecasts Using Multiple Resolution Imagery
Synchronizer/Remote: (RFP/SS) Tools

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PAGASA, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites registered PAGASA suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project: Supply and delivery of WCDS Object Series System
Location: PAGASA Central Office, Science Garden Complex, Diliman No., QC, CO

Qty./ Unit	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Price Validity	Delivery Period
1 lot	Weather Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (WCDS) Object Ground Station System Note: ( ) The Manufacturing Facility should be International Standard Organization (ISO) 9001 certified. ( ) The Government requires for Software and Hardware to be compatible to Multiply-Model Integration (CMM) Certified.	P 12,000,000.00	90 d.c.	90 d.c.

Prospective bidders should have at least five (5) years experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and should submit the Statement of All Ongoing Government and Private Contracts in accordance with Annex I of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Bidding documents are available for purchase by prospective bidders during the period from August 2 to August 15, 2007 from the Secretariat of the BAC-Goods and Services, Ground Floor, Director-Weapons Building, PAGASA Central Office, Science Garden Complex, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

Bids must be delivered to the BAC-Goods and Services Secretariat on or before August 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above.

All bidders must submit a valid Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located.

The Philippine Government encourages participation of Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a foreign country whose laws, or agencies in that country, extend to Filipino citizens and to corporations, partnerships or associations wholly owned by such citizens, equivalent privileges in procurement of goods, domestic contracts, and services, subject to reciprocity.

The BAC-Goods and Services reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please call Messrs. Wilfredo Nacino S. Reyes and Jose Mario M. Diaz at 911-0252/924-9510 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at gsd@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

By:

(Sgd.) FRANCIS T. SANTOS
Officer-in-Charge
Computer Services Group
Acting Chair, BAC-ITR

(PEI) August 2, 2007

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Various Uninterruptible Power Supply

The **Pag-IBIG FUND**, through its Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology Resources (**BAC-ITR**), intends to apply the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Various Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Item No.	Qty./ Unit	Item Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
I	6 units	Uninterruptible Power Supply – Category A	
II	20 units	Uninterruptible Power Supply – Category B	
III	46 units	Uninterruptible Power Supply – Category C	
IV	1 set	UPS Enterprise Management Tool	
			P 6,397,551.00

The **Pag-IBIG FUND** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of Various Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and as mandated by Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a foreign country whose laws, or agencies in that country, extend to Filipino citizens and to corporations, partnerships or associations wholly owned by such citizens, equivalent privileges in procurement of goods, domestic contracts, and services, subject to reciprocity.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Pag-IBIG FUND and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BAC-ITR Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, starting August 2, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-ITR Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, starting August 2, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00), and to be submitted personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-ITR Secretariat, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, starting August 2, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00), and to be submitted personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Pag-IBIG FUND will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on August 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in Session Hall, Room 602, 7th Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City or 3 days after the last purchase of Bidding Documents, whichever is earlier.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00 P.M. of August 21, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on August 21, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. in Session Hall, Room 602, 7th Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The Pag-IBIG FUND, Head Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Wilfredo Nacino S. Reyes and Jose Mario M. Diaz at 911-0252/924-9510 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at gsd@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
GOODS AND SERVICES

By:

(Sgd.) DELIA L. BERNARDO
Vice-President
Administration Group
Vice-Chair, BAC-GS

(PEI) August 2, 2007

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomic Services Administration (PAGASA)
Science Garden, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100

PS No. 168-01-002
WCDS Object Series System
Weapons Control Officer
Signal of Fund: Director-Weapons Through Enhanced Weather
and Climate Forecasts Using Multiple Resolution Imagery
Synchronizer/Remote: (RFP/SS) Tools

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PAGASA, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites registered PAGASA suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project: Supply and delivery of WCDS Object Series System
Location: PAGASA Central Office, Science Garden Complex, Diliman No., QC, CO

Qty./ Unit	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Price Validity	Delivery Period
1 lot	Weather Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (WCDS) Object Ground Station System Note: ( ) The Manufacturing Facility should be International Standard Organization (ISO) 9001 certified. ( ) The Government requires for Software and Hardware to be compatible to Multiply-Model Integration (CMM) Certified.	P 12,000,000.00	90 d.c.	90 d.c.

Prospective bidders should have at least five (5) years experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and should submit the Statement of All Ongoing Government and Private Contracts in accordance with Annex I of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

All bidders shall be eligible, Bidders and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is below, as follows:

Activities	Schedule/ Time	Venue
1. Advertisement/ Posting of ITB	August 2 – 7, 2007	
2. Issuance of Bid Doc. & Availability	August 2 – 7, 2007 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	General Services Division GF PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
3. Pre-bid Conference	August 8, 2007 10:00 a.m.	Conference Room GF PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
4. Submission of Eligibility, Technical and Financial Proposals	August 20, 2007 10:00 a.m.	General Services Division GF PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
5. Opening of Eligibility Proposals & Envelope I	August 20, 2007 10:30 a.m.	Multi-Purpose Conference Room GF PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
6. Opening of Bids – Envelope II	August 20, 2007 11:00 a.m.	Multi-Purpose Conference Room GF PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
7. Bid Evaluation & Post-qualification	August 21 – 27, 2007 8:00 a.m.	
8. Notice of Award	August 28, 2007	
9. Notice to Proceed	September 3, 2007	

Interested bidders may refer to the Bid Requirements and Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to P12,000.00 to the PAGASA Cashier, upon presentation of this advertisement. Bidding together with the Contractor's PRC.

The PAGASA reserves the responsibility mentioned to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) PRISCO R. NILO
Chairman, PAGASA BAC

(PEI) August 2, 2007

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

For Your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office
897-6808 loc. 314, 336; 896-4415; 896-4427; 897-0425 **(Telefax)**
Cubao: 912-9088 loc 11 **(Aurora)**
Makati: 892-5536; 811-4062; 811-4378
Kalaw: 528-8212; 527-2942
Hagonoy: 435-0216; 435-6226

INQUIRER

CREBA NATIONAL CONVENTION • 2007

October 25 - 27, 2007

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT FOR THE LARGEST EVENT OF THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

The supplement will be published on 25 October 2007 and will be distributed with the Philippine Daily Inquirer nationwide.

Reach audience who are actively looking for the best goods in real estate. Position yourself to manage on the highest advantage - competitive cost and time edition.

Book your supplement to www.pdi.com.ph or call 896-6000 loc. 3151 to 3154

BOOK YOUR AD SPACE

Call ALEXA GARCIA at 896-6000 loc. 3153 or 0917-7555 or email agarcia@inquirer.com.ph

---

Production Manager

- Degree in engineering, trade or technical
- Experience in supervising of machines
- Able to operate Heidelberg Cylinder

WATCHES

BEST APPRAISAL

ROLEX

JEWELRY CLEARANCE SALE

WAITRESS
COOK
VALET PARKER

WAITERS

UNDER RENOVATION

INQUIRER Classifieds
SM Megamall Branch,
5th Floor Building B
from July 30 to September 15, 2007.
For ad placements, please call 6350219, 6350220 or 8978808.

URGENT!!!!! URGENT!!!!! URGENT!!!!!
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN KUWAIT!

OUR OWN OYES IS LOOKING FOR A FEMALE ENGLISH-SPEAKING, PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AS A PRIVATE TRAINER FOR A FAMILY WITH (4) CHILDREN (4-11 YEARS OLD).

PREFER 25 MOCED TO TEACH THE CHILDREN, SWIMMING, MARTIAL ARTS, AND NEED TO DESIGN A FITNESS PROGRAM, KNOWLEDGE OF FOOD NUTRIENT AND FIGHTS DIET.

THE POSITION OFFERS ROOM AND BOARD AND SALARY BASED ON EXPERIENCE.

Interested applicants may please apply in person or send a resume with recent picture and salary required at:

88 INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES INC.
4216 Level 2nd Flr. PEMANIK Bldg.
Dr. A Santos Avenue, Sucat Parañaque City
Tel. # 8245172 / Fax # 8245526
POEA LICENSE # 3988-LB-111-10-R
or send thru E-mail address at **jaci@88mis.com** or **pulihinquire@hotmail.com**

(Manpower Pooling only. No Fees to be collected)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. XI
San Pedro Extension, Davao City
TELEFAX NO. (082) 221-1271, (082) 221-1558, E-mail: caro11@pldtdsl.net

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Audit, Regional Office No. XI, Davao City invites to bids and Awards Committee hereby invites its interested suppliers to apply for eligibility to bid for:

Contract Effectivity until 31 December 2007 or a shorter implementation period as stated in the Notice to Proceed, subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory performance of the supplier.

1. Deadline for the submission of Letter of Intent is on August 10, 2007 together with the following eligibility documents, duly certified, must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee for the purpose of evaluation and determination of their qualified bidders:
   a. Valid and current Mayor's/Business permit
   b. Latest Income/Business tax return
   c. Net worth for the last two years, the corresponding Audited Financial Statements stamped "RECEIVED" by the BIR, statement must be equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the ABC
   d. Certificate of PhilGEPS Registration
   e. Omnibus Sworn Statement (Revised) (Section 25 and 47 of the Revised IRR of RA 9184)
2. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
3. All applications received by the Committee shall be evaluated on the basis of their completeness, compliance and supporting documents as specified in the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 09-2007 dated 31 May 2007.
4. The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare failure of bidding or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

ATTY. MERCEDES B. GUMBAN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

CLASSIFIEDS More Classified Ads

Supreme Court of the Philippines (SC) A7
Department of Labor (DOLE) A13
Hiyasan A20

OBITUARIES

Sister GLORIA ROQUE TYMSON, ICM

died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 31, 2007 at the age of 73
in the 48th year of her religious missionary life.

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM) Sisters, Our Family and Friends request the readers to pray for her.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on August 3, 2007 (Saturday) at 9:30 a.m. at the Queen of Peace Chapel, 561 Banawe St., Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery.

Evangelina "Eva" Gramaxo Brosas

Peacefully passed out Lord on July 27, 2007 at the age of 72

Eva was a loving and devoted mother to Ronel & Sue, Rene & Rodora, Loida & adoring grandmother to Bridge, Andrea, Renee-Jo Rodel, loving sister to Manolo, Conching & Nita. She will be missed dearly for her loving warmth, kindness and generosity will for an entire heart of those she touched. The family and friends request prayers for the continuing Mass of the Affiant rest in the Lord of our Lord. Her remains lie in state at Laguna Memorial Chapel Morayta, Calamba, Laguna Infield Saint John the Baptist Church where mass will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2007, 3:00 p.m. Interment will follow at Rizal Memorial Park, Lucban, Tayabas, Laguna.

"Eternal life will mellow up their whole are but God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you." — John 14:1-2

Message of Thanks

GERONIMO ZAMORA VELASCO

October 6, 1927 – July 16, 2007

We, his wife **Erlinda**; children **Urbano** & **Ramona Favis**, **Ma. Paz Amparo** & **Oliverio Lagueral, Jr.**, **Geronimo, Jr.** & **Felicia Trinidad**, **Ma. Luisa Velasco**; and, **Miguel** & **Lailani Mendoza**; his grandchildren, and other relatives and friends will always appreciate and be grateful for the love and concern shown us during this, our time of greatest sorrow.

Thank you to all those, near and far, who offered masses and prayers for his soul, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, spent precious time with us, made donations in his favorite charities, and expressed in many other ways their care and support.

May God bless you all.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Isuzu Philippines Corporation

on its

Anniversary Celebration

ISUZU

YOUR RESPONSIBLE PARTNER

10th ANNIVERSARY

AS TOUGH AS OUR PRODUCTS, THAT'S HOW TOUGH OUR COMMITMENT IS TO YOU. 10 YEARS OF PROUDLY SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE FILIPINO PUBLIC. OUR SINCEREST "THANK YOU" FROM THE FIRST AND LAST NAME IN DIESEL ENGINE TECHNOLOGY.

*20% DISCOUNT ON ALL PMS LABOR CHARGES.

* FREEBIES FOR 10,000KM. PMS.

The First Philippine International Motor Show

ISUZU

Your responsible partner

*VISIT YOUR NEAREST AUTHORIZED ISUZU DEALER FROM AUGUST 1 TO 31, 2007.

www.isuzuphil.com

Assembled and distributed by: Isuzu Philippines Corporation Tel. No. (049) 541-0324 • Fax Nos. (02) 843-8003, (049) 541-0102

LIFESTYLE

Editor Cheche Barrail-Formoso

FITNESS • WEDNESDAY SBU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

Ever heard of spaghetti squash?

Here is an easy recipe that is perfect for your grilled steaks or chicken. It is also a great way to encourage kids to eat vegetable

THE CUCURBITA PEPO OR "spaghetti squash," also known to the Chinese as Shark's Fin Melon, is referred to as such because, when cooked, it shreds to thin strings that resemble noodles (or shark's fin).

An American native low-calorie vegetable, rich in vitamin A, potassium, folic acid and beta carotene, the spaghetti squash also comes by the names "noodle squash" and "vegetable marrow."

To cook spaghetti squash:

Boil – Submerge whole vegetable in water and boil 20 minutes, until soft.

Steam – Pierce flesh with fork and steam until soft.

Bake – Pierce whole vegetable with fork and bake until tender. I find baked is best though time consuming. It enhances the flavor and makes for smarter "spaghettis."

Once cooked, slice, scrape off the seeds and use a fork to shred the flesh. Voilà! Vegetable noodles! It is not an illusion but rather the sheer magic of Mother Nature!

I used the vegetable as a side dish to some steak or grilled steaks. I cook them in a bit of butter and onions, add chili chipotles (dried bacon and top it off with parmesan, or sprouted parmesan.

Since I found it healthy, I've been playing with it. Here is an easy recipe that is perfect for your grilled steaks or chicken.

And play around with spaghetti squash. The possibilities are endless! It's also a great way to encourage kids to eat squash!

Creamed "Spaghetti" with Bacon and Basil Cream

To spaghetti squash
Strips bacon
½ c shallots, diced
4 cloves garlic, minced
½ c fresh basil, julienned
½ c mixed fresh herbs
½ c cream
Salt
Pepper
Parmesan

Cook and shred squash. Strain to remove excess liquid. Squeeze gently, if you must, to extract water.

Brown bacon in butter. Add garlic or basil and onions. Simmer to thicken cream slightly.

Add squash. Season with salt and pepper. Garnish with parmesan and basil.

Serve with steak or chicken.

The curious vegetable is now (or soon to be) brilliantly gotten locally by Diane Parnes! They also have Thai Muang squash, which is excellent for soup, mash and custard as it absorbs very little liquid, is dense fleshed and is very sweet and creamy. A great substitute for pumpkin! Call 886-7779 (Dessie or Gene).

I like the squash soup. May I have the recipe?

Maree

Now that we've found the best squash, here it is, Maree, a beautiful treat in the cause!

Squash Soup

1 k Thai Muang squash
½ c cream
½ k chicken
2 apples
2 onions, quartered
Bacon strips

end of season
sale
August 2 - September 15, 2007

up to 40% off
selected items
Let the sale begin!

MARKS & SPENCER

Shangri-La Plaza Mall (633-4663) • Glorietta 4 (752-7471) • Greenbelt 3 (757-4818) • Alabang Town Center (842-5557)
SM Megamall A (632-0171) • Robinsons Place Manila (522-7784) • Power Plant Mall (856-0945)
Ayala Center Cebu (032-230-1009) • SM City Pampanga (045-963-9336) • Gateway Mall (913-7868)
SM City North Edsa (442-6060) • Robinsons Galleria East Wing (632-4234) • SM Mall of Asia (361-1022) • Trilogna (361-2721)

Fusion Marketing Specialists, Inc. (FMSI) is the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer in the Philippines

SPAGHETTI and Thai Muang Squash

TEA server pours the beverage.

BEETROOT and fruit strawberry layers with chive foam

The new chef of Shangri-La's Rasa can teach us a thing or two about our own cooking and how to present it

COLLECTION of Chinese recipes from the Shang Palace and Summer Palace restaurants

A hotel's eventful launches

By Michaela Fenix

THREE LAUNCHES SO FAR this year. Makati Shangri-La is busy with new things in general.

Recently, Conway's showed off its brighter, sassier new look. They must have done something to the servers, too, because, in spite of the music, we could carry on a conversation.

EXECUTIVE pastry chef Yusuf Turan

CHEF ALEXIDER Lurot of Rasa

The steak has turned to Lorin, risotto and salsa. And so the signature drink is a big glass of mojito.

The pastry post on outside, at the smoking area, has those who must have a puff.

And, on the other hand, has a new chef de cuisine. Rasoliget Lara, however, looked already at home even if this is his first assignment in Asia and he can even speak some Tagalog.

He learned the language working with as many Filipinos in Dubai. And so he is familiar with our cooking.

Finding adobo on the menu, however, was a pleasant surprise. It was really tempting to taste past to know how the Emirates chef cooked the quintessential Filipino dish.

Getting it right

Lorin got the flavor right, and then he showed that he understood how it should be executed by adding rice as the side.

Later, the chef said his way of presenting adobo was to use pork ribs but with some of the fat. The sauce was minimal but the taste certainly was there. He can teach us a thing or two about our own cooking and how to present it.

We also did tapa-style frittata, getting it the right balance of sweetness from the vinegar and the citrus.

We applaud the same light hand in his other dishes such as a hint of champagne foam on a puree of vegetable. He knows to not suppress or overwhelm and ensures a nice balance.

I like the medley of tuna sarungs that involved tuna as sashimi, wrapped in nori like a spring roll, and as a 'set-up dish' for vegetable strips and sweetness topped with caviar.

Desserts were by executive pastry chef Yusuf Turan. Turkish by birth, he learned his skills at the Hotels Lenotre in Paris and Pahlo International in Switzerland. His beetroot and fresh strawberry layers were supposed to a quiet of lime foam. And he created layers of mint-petal macaroons and raspberry tuiles.

The very first launch was some weeks back at the Shang Palace. It was to introduce a thick, luxury cookbook, "Flavours of Shangri-La."

It is a compilation of recipes from the many Shang Palaces and Summer Palace restaurants. And a good thing, too, because most Chinese recipes are passed on from the chef or master chef to those he is mentoring through cooking rather than writing. In this volume, many that demonstration process for us a well-made, handsome book.

"Essence of Shangri-La" has more than just good looks. It reveals many of the mysterious elements of Chinese cooking by explaining and photographing ingredients.

There is a precious tip for each recipe, telling the cook or even someone who just likes to learn what proper procedure will ensure that the dish comes out right or even how to accomplish the cooking article.

And even more helpful, every recipe has the suggested pairing with the dish be it tea, Chinese spirit or Western wine.

In the launch, the Shang kitchen cooked some of the recipes. And the tea server surprised us by filling our cup with a well-aimed liquid stream from a pot that was about a meter away.

COMPOSITION of tuna

CRAB claws in tiramisu at Shang Palace

Dining Out

Hangzhou cuisine

HEAVEN N' EDGE opens another branch in Alabang. The restaurant offers dinner business consisting of Steak Fingers 99 Calamari Rings, Heaven's Fish 'N Chips Basket, Basket of Chicken, Tempura Basket, Bruschetta Germany and Chicken Teriyaki. Other favorites include US Top Blade Steak with eggs, US Rib Fingers with eggs, Country-fried Steak, Grilled Pork Chop and Tuna Strata (tel. 3962684, 6985795, 9126175, 8895795 and 9013600).

COCORAMA (L-R, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong; tel. 9108481) features waffles and pancakes. Creamy Sunrise, Tsunami, Choco Mojo, Berry White, Island Escapade, Banana Caramel Rock and Jackson Fire Pancakes. Other favorites include Chiquito, Big Island Jumbo Rice, Burger Steak, Smoked Salmon, El Paso Grilled Chicken Wrap, Grilled Vegetable Terpaste, Hawaiian Summer Siamese Teriyaki Ribs Platter, Tuna Manoris, among others.

CHINESE PALACE (2/L, Eton Manila, E. Ortigas Ave., Ortigas Center; tel. 9108481) features Hangzhou cuisine. Aug. 15-Sept. 7, Chef Sam Lee will again include Beggar's Chicken in the restaurant's a la carte menu for lunch and dinner. Other dishes offered during the month-long festival are Sautéed Spicy Baby Lobster, Braised Seacucumber with Dingleh Nuts, Deep-fried Stuffed Egg Cakes, Sautéed Sliced Spicy Pork Belly, Deep-fried Seafood Meat Tofu, Sautéed Shrimp Paired with Chinese Sausage, Meatball Pork Belly and Stir-fried Shrimp with Long Jing Tea (tel. 6327700).

MARKET CAFÉ presents Dessert Extravaganza the whole month of August. Offered are Chocolate Truffle Layered Cake, Blueberry Bilango Mousse Cake, White Choco Cone, among others (tel. 8837336).

DELI'S offers new dishes for the rainy season. They include Deli's Mesquite Chicken Salad and Cajun Rib-eye, a 10-ounce rib-eye steak. Also available is Deli's Pasta Trio, a combination of steak, chicken and shrimp. A new kind on an old favorite is Deli's Chicken Deli Tacos. Deli's new Caramel Apple Torte is a skillet baked apple tart.

BENGO'S offers Dining Hall Breakfast Meals consisting of Beef Tapa Tapa, Lechon Longganisa, Vigan Longganisa, Beef Bistek Tagalog and Daing na Bangus, served with garlic rice and two eggs (tel. 8188100).

TA-BANG'S Pinoy Pinto featured dish is a colorful of buffalo wings, grilled chicken, chicken satay, seafood sticks, and fries served with blue cheese, salsa, and sides. More dips for only P49.75. The Pinoy Boodle Fight promo is available at all Ta-Bang's and Carlos outlets.

CHEESECAKES Inc. at Eastwood City Walk's restaurant row has become the favorite hangout of dessert lovers. It offers the two-tier, sugar-free Lemon Cheesecake. It has a nice crust and is topped with fruit tart, mangoes and grapes. It also offers salads, soups and nachos, sandwiches, pasta, baked rice and treats like Chicken Teriyaki, Boneless Bangus, Pork Sisig with Egg, and Beef Tapa Platter (tel. 9139196, text 0917-8090699).

CLAWDADDY'S lucrative Baby Back Ribs. Other favorites include the Hickory Chicken Roast, Crab Martinez, Crab Singapore, Butter-Ginger Crab, Filet's Pepper Crab, New Orleans Barbecue Crab, Crab Cocina, Clam Daddy Crab House and American Grille at The Ledge, A/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Ortigas (tel. 6365679).

THE CONSUMER

Conservation should be a way of life

By Linda B. Bolido

WITH INSUFFICIENT rainfall even now that the country is well into the rainy season, even politicians are calling for conservation of water and energy.

Sadly, when the reservoirs are filled once again and hydroelectric plants are performing at optimum levels, conservation will no doubt be forgotten once more.

Conservation should be a life-long commitment. If we consume energy, guzzle petroleum that are still non-renewable and pollute the environment, we only have ourselves to blame if our privileges were denied us.

Don't worry you, these perhaps acknowledged how much money you waste by ignoring simple saving measures will convince you that conservation makes good sense.

The new Live Earth website (liveearth.msn.com), partly sponsored by the global concert to raise awareness of the current environmental crisis, said: "A single slow leaky faucet dripping 30 drops per minute wastes 2,000 liters per day or the equivalent of 27 baths per year."

Never mind that this doesn't think of the money literally going down the drain every day. Our biggest source waste is our utensils, you pay for 90 gallons of unused water, in addition to what you actually consume.

As for electricity, leaving your TV set, video players, stereos and computers on standby mode you waste you are using 10-60 percent of the power they consume when turned on. If a machine uses 20 kilowatts, at standby it will use 2-12 kilowatts.

But if you turn off completely that TV, video player or stereo when not in use, consumption is zero.

Recently the TV program "Mythbusters" on Discovery Channel proved leaving off lights when not needed does save you energy.

The show found that unless you stay away for a period of 5 second or less, leaving the lights on will cost you a penny only per hour's while.

Turning off an unused light even for less than a minute would save money.

Of course, using energy saving light bulbs will further save you money. In the United Kingdom, it was estimated that just one bulb can save £100 (about P9,227) over the lifetime of the bulb. And such bulbs last upto 12 times longer than ordinary incandescent bulbs.

More tips

Other conservation tips from User Energy website:

• Use the washing machine or dishwasher only when you have a full load.

• Dry your self-generate coal. Do not leave the dryer on for longer than necessary. Instead, cool down fully before putting it in the cupboard.

• Avoid putting cookers and sole heaters next to each other.

• When buying a new cooker, freezer, air-conditioner or washing machine, look for the Energy Saving Recommended (ESRC) logo. Appliances with this ESR logo are the most efficient in their category. In the UK, it is estimated that the use of such an appliance could mean savings of up to £45 (about P4,152.60) a year.

• Replace incandescent and halogen with high-efficiency energy.

• Changing just one showerhead and two taps reduces you average by up to 70 percent without affecting performance.

"The amount you'll save on your water and electricity bills will pay for the kit in just three to 12 months," the website said.

Dry your clothes under the sun. They will smell better, too.

Meanwhile, a research in Carnegie Mellon University estimated that in the United States, consumers could save nearly [illegible] billion a year if they shifted just seven percent of their usage during peak periods to less costly times.

"That is the equivalent of the entire nation [illegible] power every year," the report said.

(send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makati City, or e-mail: bolido@inquirer.com.ph)

In the mix

THREE OF THE FAVORITE pastimes of Pinoy families are eating, shopping and reading. With that in mind, Fooser and SM Supermarkets have launched a nationwide promotional campaign called "Kumi Slapsaang sa SM," ongoing until Aug. 31. The promo aims to support the Department of Tourism's food countries campaign.

"I am proud to say this partnership with Fooser and the DTC through Our Flavor Thing Sarap sa SM campaign, is a first. This is the first time two giants are coming together to help the DOT launch a nationwide campaign, specifically to promote 'Filipino food'," said Pichet Ong, president of SM's Supermarkets, at the launch.

As part of Fooser's content, SM shoppers are asked to tag some of Fooser's popular TV program scenes.

TO AVOID the often hit-and-miss process of getting the right blend of ingredients and seasoning, Knorr recently launched Knorr Wow Pakwan Mix, Sinigang sa Gangnakit Mix and Pork Broth Cubes.

KNORR creates its flavour mixes and bouillon to make the preparation of Filipino soups much easier while retaining the natural goodness of fresh ingredients.

Grand Barista Cup 2007

ALLIED COFFEE CORP. AND SuViani Gourmet Syrups & Sauces of Australia will present the Grand Barista Cup 2007.

The Philippines' best brew masters will compete in the annual event that will showcase the participants' talent and skills in brewing coffee.

The Grand Barista Cup will be held in conjunction with AsiaFood Expo Sept. 5 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Judges will consist of Filipino and foreign coffee connoisseurs. Participants will include representatives of Figaro, McCafé, Joe's Coffee Club, Bistro Jesse Coffee and Coffee Experience.

The recent launch of the event was announced by Leo de Leon, president of Allegro Beverage Corp.; and Lizette de la Cruz, project manager of Trade Information Marketing and Exhibitions Inc., organizer of AsiaFood Expo.

The Grand Barista Cup winner will represent the Philippines in Asian Barista Cup in April. Winner of the Asian Barista Cup will represent Southeast Asia at World Barista Cup in the United States next July.

Hawker buffet and chicken barbecues

THE HOUSE ALPHAS EXHOUSE OF GULL story Arts is offering the following dinner:

• August 3—Split-roasted Chicken Barbecues (all serves)—Rotary Chicken with Java Rice, Iberian Barbecue Chicken with Mashing, Thai Barbecue with Fried Thai, Honey Chicken in Lemon Grass Skewers with Vietnamese Noodles, Coconut Milk Barbecued Chicken with Barley Peanut Rice

• August 4—Hawker Buffet (special chair)—Pork Ang Siew with Curry, Ika Egg, Sausages, Greens and Rice; The Secret to Making Excellent Congee; Soy-Sauce Chicken with Smoked Kangkong; Thai Orange Rice; Delicious Clay Pot Rice; Oyster Cakes; 3 Delicious Noodle Recipes; Indonesian Fried Silver Noodles, Fried Thai, Malaysian, Hawker Sticks and Skewers

• August 5—Homemade Stuffed Pasta (all serves)—Pumpkin Soup with Chicken Spinach Ravioli, Salad of Beef Ravioli Stuffed with Veal Cheese, Ravioli with Four Cheeses in Herb Sauce, Duck Ravioli with Port Gin Hunter Cream Sauce, Mushroom Stuffed with Prawn Sauce

• August 6—Dim-dish Pasta Meals (all serves)—Double Cheese Fettuginni (Pizza Spaghetti), Pasta with Smoked Salmon in Vodka Sauce with Wood Chip Smoked Cod, Simon Steaks with Pasta in Bell Pepper Cream Sauce, Herb-grilled Stuffed Chicken Legs with Seafood Pasta in Butternut Sauce

(+632)8289296 /9278006/6333162.

Ever heard of . . .

From page A1

Sidi
Pecpec
Bayabas
Inyak vegetables with bagoong. Sprinkle with brown sugar, salt and pepper. Roast in oven 350° until tender.

2 tbsp butter
1/2 bacon
4-6 cloves minced
1/2 squash
1/2 cream
1/2 butter
Pinakbet
Heat pot, add 2 tbsp butter, fresh bacon.

Add crushed vegetables, add broth, bring to boil and simmer 10 minutes.

Puree. Add cream and butter. Season to taste with salt, pepper and a pinch of sugar.

Garnish with parsley and sour cream.

Four volume always [illegible] tried to say this as I always [illegible] what to surprise my kids with some stupid thing. The first time I served them the kalle kanard ala cruz recipe. I got them hooked to movie adverts so no nothing. Sadly, through my house help lost the page. My sister is celebrating her birthday soon and I am hoping I can retrieve that scholastic recipe.

May your columns continue to be a family bonding ritual.

Bogie Gallardo

Don't know if this is the same but this is my latest recipe for it. Read it and then have breakfast!

1 k beef ribs or Wagyu beef (thinks cubed 2x2 Cmnds this for three and it was tenderest. The beef chunks serve as tenders. The flavor, however, is more rich)

½ cayenne
3 dragonfruit
3 tbsp dark soy sauce
½ slightly soy sauce
½ cup rich, chopped
1 onion, sliced
2 slices ginger, julienne
1 c leeks, sliced
Pinch fennel
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine ingredients and marinate ribs one night in the oil.

2 tbsp peanut oil
2 tbsp sesame oil

Heat oils. Sear beef and add marinade.

Pour enough water, literally just enough to submerge beef. With too much water, you lose out on flavor.

Bring to a boil and simmer over lowest possible heat until meat is tender.

If meat is not tender yet, add just enough water to cover meat. Continue simmering till tender.

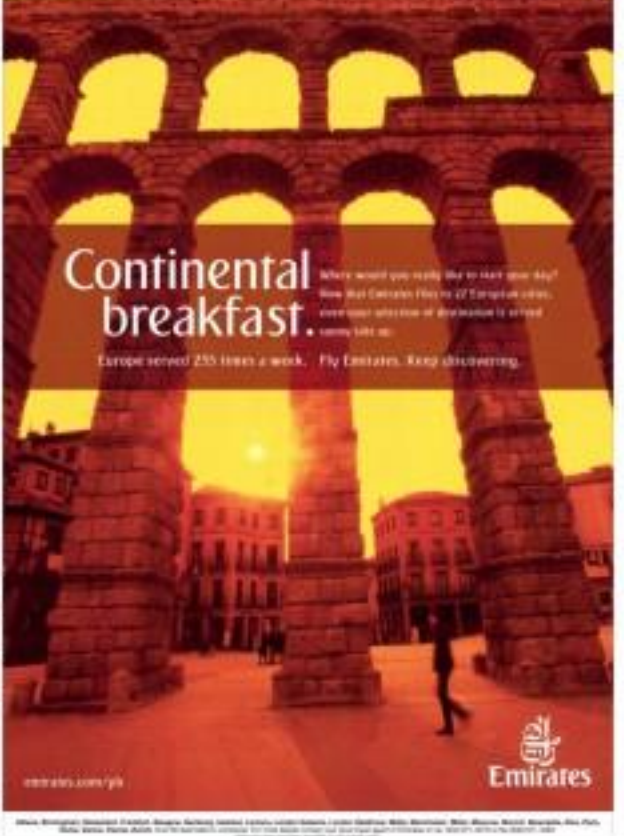
When tender, add vegetables and cook until soft. Season well with salt and pepper to taste.

Garnish with sliced green onions and sesame seeds.

Optional:
1 [illegible], sliced diagonally
1 potato
1 carrot
Mixed mushrooms

Wagyu beef cheeks are available at Mercantile Foods [illegible] 09279081268 and 6377226 [illegible]

E-mail inquirer@inquirer.com.ph



4

USING a melon baller or spoon, make a slight indentation on each piece of tofu.

5

STUFF each hole with the beef mixture.

6

TRANSFER to a heat-proof dinner dish. Top with spring onion. Steam for 15 minutes.

STEP BY STEP

Healthy, tasty and easy

7

TO MAKE the sauce, combine all ingredients in a saucepan. Cook over low heat until it starts to slightly thicken.

3

CUT tofu into 1 ½-inch-long pieces.

8

POUR sauce on steamed stuffed tofu and serve warm.

2

ADD carrots, salt and spring onion. Mix for at least 2 minutes or form a sticky paste. Set aside.

1

MIX beef, processor, mix together ground beef, buttercream sauce, egg white, bouillon cubes, rice wine and sesame oil.

Text by Margie Rigos Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

WHETHER YOU are health-conscious or not, it is always best to know a few healthy recipes that are also delicious.

A recipe for tofu or bean curd always comes handy. Tofu is easy to digest, low in calories and sodium but high in protein and cholesterol-free making it one of today's most healthful foods.

The custard-like white tofu is made from curdled soy milk, an off-white liquid extracted from ground, soaked soybeans. The resulting curds are drained and pressed in a way similar to cheese-making.

Tofu has a bland, slightly nutty taste and absorbs the flavor of the food that it is cooked with.

In the Chinese diet, tofu is an important source of protein. Braised, stir-fried, or deep-fried, this very nutritious tofu adds a distinctive texture to both main and vegetable Chinese dishes.

Here is a simple and quick tofu recipe that combines the flavors of beef and mushroom. It is topped with the savory teriyaki sauce that offers a contrast in taste and color to the meat.

The tofu absorbs the flavors of beef and mushroom and soaks up the savory sauce.

Chef Michelle Ortiz, product application specialist of San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center, says if you do not have a melon baller, you can use a round spoon to form a round hole in the center by applying a part of the tofu.

The beef mixture is then shaped into a ball and placed in the round hole in the center.

Most of the seasoning ingredients, including dashi sauce, sake and mirin, are available in most Japanese stores in major malls.

Tofu is often sold in supermarkets either packed in water in sealed plastic containers or vacuum-packed in plastic without water. Both are available for this recipe.

Ingredients
2 packs tofu
250 g (1 tbsp) ground beef
½ c. finely shallots, chopped
1 pc egg white
½ pc. chicken bouillon cube, crumbled
2 tbsp rice wine
1 tbsp sesame oil
2 tbsp cornstarch
1 tsp salt
2 tbsp spring onions, chopped
Sauce:
1 ½ tbsp sake
1 ½ tbsp mirin
1 tbsp sugar
½ tsp grated ginger
1 tbsp light soy sauce
pinch black pepper
½ tsp dashi granules dissolved in ½ c. hot water
½ tsp salt
½ tbsp cornstarch dissolved in 1 tbsp cold water

For suggestions, e-mail the author at <thegirl@inquirer.com.ph>

STEAMED Seafood Tofu

'Pink Kitchen' features top chefs, diverse cuisines

A SUPERMOM duo (from l.) Jessica B. Fernandez, Maritza Fernandez Reyes, Haruka Fernandez Reyes, Anica Fernandez Reyes

CASSERVE AND ABS-CBN Publishing will hold "Pink Kitchen," a benefit food and drink festival on Aug. 11 and 12 at the Rockwell Tent.

"Pink Kitchen" features the country's top chefs who will prepare original and signature dishes.

Aside from Filipino cuisine, the food festival will cover international cuisine, ranging from Cuban to Burmese, Indonesian, Italian, Spanish, Thai, Chinese, French, Moroccan, and Continental. There will be a salad bar and sandwiches bar from Jim Bonzo's The Store.

It will also offer freshly baked bread, with no preservatives, from Mokatan, made famous from Hotel and of Switzerland.

Wine, cocktails, juices, and other kinds of desserts are also featured.

Chefs featured are Reggie Aquino, Mitchee and Ramon Sobe (Spanish cuisine); Anne Castro ("lumpia" dishes); Poch Jovellanos (Pampanga cuisine); Toni Cuenco (Lapasan); Money Mañosa (sandwiches deli); Alice Hernandez (Filipino native fish dishes); Enrico Fadilla (Cuban); Wendy Gozum (Burmese); Michelle O'Donel (French); Nigel Tombeling (Continental); Meriel Espinosa-de (sandwich); Jill Bonnin (antipasto); Mona Valdez (Indonesian); Abi Lucero (Italian); Ying Villanueva (Thai); Ramon Dogna (Indian); Jam of Mr. Chef's Kitchen (dessert); Joe Cheong Yee (Israeli); Marvel Cunanan (mezzanine); Nina Meng (hot tenderloin); Vergie Kitchen (pastries and merienda fare); Bobo Bowers (chocolates); and Pam Ramos (dulces de leche cheesecakes).

Free seminars cover cake decorating, wine tasting, table arrangement, heirloom recipes, and other culinary related issues.

"Pink Festival" is supported by San Miguel, Mercator, Bodevine, Salad Time, Coca-Cola and Del Monte.

Proceeds will go to the Kindness Foundation, an advocacy group that empowers women with information on breast cancer and provides special services for cancer survivors. Kindness is gearing up for the first nationwide early breast cancer detection program.

For inquiries, call the Rizal, (632) 6722529 to 32, (632) 6070842 or e-mail <samsmm@pacific.com.ph> or visit <www.pacific.com>

LIFESTYLE

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

An off-season food trip

THE SIGNS ARE ALL IN BORACAY, across stalls of plastic or fine stock to keep the fleas away used from being blown into your food, your electronic gadget and your eyes by the southwest monsoon winds (hangin').

The season signal off-season on the island

AN OFF-SEASON D2

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

SHAMROCK

BPI

Celebrating 156 Years of Banking Excellence

BPI Express Credit Real Thrills: The New Dimension to a More Rewarding Payment Experience

BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

Get the reward that's right for you.

BPI Express Credit is the first to give you Real Thrills, an instant rewards system that knows a bit more about you - where you frequently shop and dine, how often, and when, so we can give you gifts that thrill you more - instantly, effortlessly, right where you love to shop.

ENJOY REAL THRILLS AT THESE PARTNER ESTABLISHMENTS:

FORUM · METRO · NikeWomen · Bland · REGENT · MEMO · URBANSPA

Call 89-100.

BPI

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

HELLO?
WELL?
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT ME!
WAAH!
OH, GREAT. A SMALL, HELPLESS, HELPLESS, HELPLESS

ESCONDIDO specials of pakoy, dinakdakan, pusiga pakoy, kapyas, chicharon and dagdag salad

ZUCCHINI dips of yogurt and cucumber, eggplant and feta cheese

AVGOLEMONO, chicken soup with lemons pak in coconut milk

An off-season food trip

Front page G1

but, judging from the number of flights [see New by Seair], hotel and cottage reservations and groups of people all over, it did not seem like it.

The rolling hills were where? may have something to do with it. Or it could be the weather. While the rains do come, most days were sunny, letting you frolic on the beach and get a tan that will be the envy of office-bound mates.

My first off-season stay was in Anvaya Beach Resort (tel. 6673974), a quiet haven just a short walk from the shoreline. Its pool helps to satisfy one's lust-loving for a swim when the biological urges get too rough.

It was not my first time there but, again, they went out of their way to serve me food first.

This is a big hint to those who will assist in our historical and endeavor. Those are not on the menu but you can request for the dishes a day before.

The two are specialties of Aklan, as owner Bert Bartolo is a true native son of the province.

Binaril is a clear and light chicken soup with young coconut strips and jutes. Binakol is also chicken soup but it is traditionally cooked in either a bamboo container or a coconut shell.

Inasbuan is also chicken but cooked in coconut milk with chopped salad or batuwan/tuba pith.

The requisite menu has many Chinese dishes like pancit, sweet and sour fish, and braised pork spare ribs.

The family of Bert's wife, Lely, used to run a Chinese restaurant in Manila and so favorite serrado China dishes are served.

For lunch, we went on a picnic to the Bulabog cave. A buffet could not bring us there because of the winds so all the Boracay Tropics food and paraphernalia, together with the dinner, had to go down the steep steps from the cliff side entrance, about a hundred steps in all.

We got hungry going down there made ourselves believe that we would burn some of the calories from the grilled shrimps, fish and pork when we climbed back up.

My first visit to Boracay was disappointing because we did not get enough seafood. Imagine being on an island and yet basically getting any seafood. And what was available was only inihaw to naglu.

But last month I was in a place where not only seafood cubed but other seafood as well.

The place is Isaroldo Inc. (tel. 3564631) and, as its Spanish name suggests, it is hidden in the interior, away from the hoopening. But because my kind of happening is food, it was a good location for me.

Isaroldo's restaurant is Boracay Crab House. You can guess its specialty. They have enough ways of cooking the crustaceans in just enough taste variation. The list includes recipes such as crab fat, a mix of olive oil and white wine, black pepper, Singaporean style, deep-fried, plainly steamed, lemon and butter, chili garlic and the house's special, which tastes very much like the Zamboanga Marisa sauce.

All of those can also be applied to prawns.

We had grilled and adobo squid, pak-ow-na-bangus, ingkol-ol a fish with a root, our name—sweet lips—becomes it had red lips.

Regional specialties

What recommends the place as well is that it cooks regional specialties. Owners Mac Wilfilo and Ging and Antonyette Reyes made sure we had Bicolano cooking on a really sunny day during our visit—dinakdakan, pinaltikan and bagnet.

Dinakdakan is chopped broiled pork cheek, meat, liver and ears tossed with a mixture of salt, vinegar, pepper and onions. Pinaltikan is vegetables cooked in fish paste. And bagnet is deep-fried whole pieces of pork that have been boiled and air-dried beforehand.

What is great, too, is that breakfast has Filipino items. We had excellent longganisa from the owner's secret recipe, sizzling chicken and pork adobo dangget and a rather indulgent bopsilog dish.

Even the drinks include fresh buko like the Kawaii drinks as long as in the big ones on the grounds gratis enough.

Still, foreign resident abounds in Boracay. French, Germans, Portuguese, Koreans, Japanese, Italians, Spanish and Greeks rushed for attention and, indeed, were difficult to ignore.

It was Greek cooking at Taverna (tel. 0920-4122903) where we had one this one and two breakfasts. Owners Costi Nikolaki, also of Mati restaurant (Boulevard, Makati), Yorgos Nikolaki, and Nikos Gitsas, a partner in Asmi, all make sure the food is as authentic as possible.

We skipped the mezes because of the humidity but could not say no to the meze appetizers. There were lamb meatballs in tomato sauce (keftedes) and fried squid with tzatziki (kalamarakia).

Tzatziki is a yogurt and cucumber dip that, together with the other dips of spicy feta (tyrokafteri) and eggplant (melitzanosalata), is taken with pita. There were also triangles of spinach and feta in filo pastry (spanakopita).

Being in a group, each one made a choice resulting in several main dishes such as moussaka, layers of ground beef and eggplant held together with thickened sauce; paella with clam and one with seafood; prawns in tomato sauce. Lamb, chicken and beef were grilled in skewers.

This Greek feast brought home again the conviction that food was the best medium to communicate a country's culture, our flavor preferences, for instance.

What better place to showcase our culture than through our food served in the many foreign tourists in Boracay.

E-mail the author at pinoyfoodie@yahoo.com

Honeylette Kayser's Dinakdakan

- 1 k pork cheek and ear
- 1/4 pork liver (dinakdakan lutz)
- 100 g pork liver
- 1 ½ tbl salt
- ½ c vinegar
- 1 ½ tsp ground pepper
- 2 pc medium-size onions
- Citrus for pork pieces
- Slice the cheeks across the grain into ½-inch thick pieces.
- Grill the pork pieces until done.
- Cut all pieces into cubes.
- Mix together salt, vinegar and ground pepper. Toss over the mixed pork pieces and citrus when serving.
- Slice and chop the onions.
- Mix chopped onions with the pork mixture.

Menu of old and new

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN (trilogy in mixed media) to the Trinoma Bistro Quezon City.

People living north of Metro Manila and nearby places now can get their fix of BBQ Chopped Salad at Annonas Deli nearby and not have to go all the way to Greenbelt in Shaw Boulevard.

The home of the Original BBQ Chicken Pizza and other innovative health-baked pizzas, pastas, entrées, salads, appetizers, soups and desserts, last opened in 5th restaurant in Ayala Land's latest mall, Trinoma on John Gokongwei's North Avenue.

Restaurant-after-the-latest design of its branch in Monterey, California, CPK's newest branch is located close to the gardens and overlooks an area of 585 of the mall. The new branch that can seat over 300 people, is adorned with carefully designed pieces hand-crafted by the Ginning Ami Art club of the University of Santo Tomas.

CPK Trinoma is open daily 11 a.m. 12 midnight. To add to its popular menu of pizzas, pastas and salads, CPK's Trinoma also offers an exciting line of new dishes.

California Pizza Kitchen is at Level M1, Trinoma Mall. Call 9813881 up to 82.

GINA Sanoza, senior operations director; Artiza Rodriguez, president, Global Restaurant Concepts, Inc., CPK licensed franchisee; Joel Hernandez, general manager; Trinoma Mall; Louie Tehli Manuel Zobel, vice-chair, Global Restaurant Concepts, Inc.; Sen. Miguel Zobel and wife Audrey Tan-Zobel

Enjoy your paella and help a child

WHEN IT COMES TO AUTHENTIC, historic to goodness paella, nothing comes close to the culinary mastery of the town of Spanish roots in the Philippines, Arantacia de Alba.

For over 50 years, Alba has been cooking this quintessential rice dish to his kinsmen at Alba Somos Espanol.

This August, Alba marks "Paella Goodwill Month."

Launched three years ago to celebrate Alba's heritage, this year's event supports Ayala Foundation's Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education's (Center) mission to provide quality education to underprivileged children.

For the whole month of August, the restaurant will donate to Center P50 of every paella and P10 of every buffet meal ordered at Alba.

The restaurant has 16 different kinds of paella. Aside from Paella Valenciana and Paella Negra, also available are Paella Filipinas, Paella de Pato, Paella de Pollo Trias Hortelas, Arroz a la Segoviana and Paella a Pescadores.

Seafood lovers will delight in the Paella Marinera, Paella de Bacalao, Paella de Gambas, Paella de Langostinos and Paella de Cangrejos. Diners can also try the paella with seafood-flavored noodles, Fideua. Vegetarians have Paella de Verduras and Paella Verde-to-die-for.

Non-connoisseurs include Paella de Gambas, Paella con Pollo y Setas and Paella con Setas y Pesto.

Baby eaters needs children by joining the celebration of Paella Goodwill Month. Also, check out Alba's lunch buffet at P495+ per person, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., daily, in all branches; and dinner buffet at P595+ per person, 6:30-10:30 p.m., daily, at Tomas Morato and Eastwood branches.

Alba Restaurante Español is on Welcat St., Mel-Aw, Makati. Tel. 8984958 to 61, 9064095; Tomas Morato corner Scout Lazcano, QC. 9351092, 9328728, 4117982; and Cyber Loma Lithonia Center, Eastwood City, Libis 6312215 to 17.

VISIT! INVEST! PROSPER...
THE COUNTRY'S LEADER IN FOOD INDUSTRY EVENT
ASIAFOOD EXPO
The 10th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology
SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2007
AFEX 2007
ACTIVITIES and PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS
Sept. 5, 2007 (Wednesday)
Sept. 6, 2007 (Thursday)
Sept. 7, 2007 (Friday)
Sept. 8, 2007 (Saturday)
FOOD & DRINKS ASIA
FOOD FRANCHISING
FOODSERV ASIA
Asiafood

WINNING recipe, Royal Mojito mix by Restaurant Superchefs Inc.

TANGHOM winners Ryan Santos and Vincent John

WINNING bartender Gerardo Clavan Miss Saigon

Bartending with flair

THE BARTENDER OF THE year in the exciting Del Monte 2012 Juice Drink Flair Challenge is Mirzo Manila's Rivera Leperfabien.

At the grand finals which recently took place at SM North Edsa Food Court, Superbodied hosted hundreds of talented bartenders from all over the country. He wowed the judges and the viewers by crafty executed sophisticated tricks and rituals, while looking like he was having the shortest fun of his life!

Leperfabien, who has been a bartender for four years and is now the official bartender of a distributor of wines and spirits, only had half a month to prepare for the competition. He confessed old and new routines, he said.

He added he planned to compete in international competitions lined up by the Philippine Bartenders' League, of which he is a member.

In the tandem category two bartenders from Bohol, Vincent John and Ryan Santos, won the top spot. They have been flair-mates for two years now.

They made up a whole new routine in just two weeks. John said he was grateful for the opportunities Del Monte was giving young bartenders like him. Santos is taking up hotel and restaurant management (HRM) at Far Eastern University.

Clarence Allan Santos from the National College of Business Administration (NCBA) emerged as the champion of the student category. All four regional finalists of which showed immense promise.

Rimbos, who hails from Cabanatuan City, has been championing for three years now. He commanded Del Monte for tirelessly supporting events that hosted the talents of amateur and professional bartenders and allowed them to meet and share their experiences with one another.

All the top winners of the Del Monte Flair Challenge were awarded P15,000, trophies and certificates, and trips to Boracay.

Del Monte, the only fruits & juices opinion such a novel challenge for bartenders, dares our Rommel Leperfabien, a winning recipe with product who's ever evolving, stirring and shaking their own concoctions.

Royale Mocktail

- 30ml Del Monte Pineapple Juice Syrup
- 15 ml Del Monte Passion Syrup
- 30 ml Del Monte Pineapple Juice
- 30 ml Del Monte Orange Juice
- 30 ml Del Monte Mango Juice
- 2 pcs Del Monte Pineapple Slices

Blend all ingredients with ice. Serve in cocktail glass.

CEL MONTE Flair Challenge 2007 grand champ Rommel Leperfabien

Rum rediscovered

AUSTRALIA'S renowned mixologist Raj Hayes

IT'S CESSATION IS AS PAINtaking as winemaking, at times even more complex. It is a cocktail base as versatile as gin but smoother in taste.

Four hundred years since rum's creation, it remains underappreciated by many mainstream drinking market.

Last month, Bacardi Trade representatives turned discovering the humble pastes in town to bestow their prestigious product, the Bacardi brand of rum, by flying in Australia's renowned mixologist Raj Hayes for a slew of cocktail training parties in Manila, Cebu and Boracay.

Hayes gave a crash course to the bartending staff of the country's top clubs on rum's colonial heritage, varieties, and the finer art of cocktail mixing.

"You're missing out on the ultimate drinking experience if you haven't tried rum," said Hayes, who used to run some of Australia's legendary bars and has been Bacardi's international ambassador for six years now.

"Rum has endless possibilities; you can drink it on its own, on the rocks, or with your favorite mixed ingredients," he added.

Advertised in mixology these days as cosmopolitan, "You can easily do this at home by mixing equal parts of sweet and sugar in a pan over low heat, and adding in your favorite fruit or spice, such as peach, star anise, or vanilla. Blend it well over cooked and enjoy."

Bacardi has a wide range of rum varieties. The style of mixer, according to Hayes, is to use the white rum, Bacardi Carta Blanca because to make refreshing cocktail concoctions. Its cooler evenings and for those who want a richer aroma and taste, opt for the darker variety such as the Bacardi 8.

Legend is www.bacardi.com

Bacardi Daiquiri

- 2 parts Bacardi Superior
- 1 part lime or lemon juice
- 1 part sugar syrup

Ice

Mix all ingredients in a shaker or blender with ice and strain into a chilled cocktail glass or over cubed ice cubes. Enjoy.

Cuba Libre

CUBA Libre

- 1. part Bacardi Superior
- 2 Pitch Coca-Cola
- Wedge of lime

Ice

Place ice in serving glass, add contents, stir gently and garnish with a wedge of lime.

- Bacardi Mojito
- 1 part Bacardi Superior
- 3 parts club soda
- 12 mint leaves
- 1/2 lime
- 1 tbsp sugar

Place mint leaves, sugar and lime in glass. Crush well with a pestle. Add Bacardi Superior, ice cup off with club soda, stir well and garnish with sprigs of mint or a lime wheel.

Grill place opens another QC branch

LECHON Kawali

CORCO GRILLE INC OPENED A branch in Trillions Mall in Quezon City.

The new 102-seater boasts a design from rustic and modern elements. With the kitchen as centerpiece, the grill, in particular, got more than its fair light.

The show kitchen is designed to resemble a plantation house in the middle of a jungle-themed restaurant. Food preparation by the chefs becomes the "show" for patrons, who also get to enjoy the aromas of the dishes being cooked.

With the open kitchen, diners get to see the restaurant's commitment to cleanliness, sanitation, and quality in food preparation.

With windows above an unobstructed view of the kitchen, diners with an eye for interior ornaments and shelves and ingredients displayed attractively.

Those who attended the opening of the store by chef's included Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero, model Henry Gamboa, Corco Grille's chef operating officer Kenneth Yuan, Komisar Ayala and the chain's owners.

Corco Grille now amongst known for and the Trillions would not rule let patrons enjoy their favorite dishes in a totally new setting, but they would also get to watch chefs prepare their orders.

Co-owl Trillions represented the chain's Ouf Ayala venture and they expected big things in the new branch because it had more to offer mall-goppers.

Also said the branch was had a happy hour promo of beer pairings.

Aside from pork asa, crispy pata and grilled pusit, Corco Grille (02) 439-477-2011, is also famous for its pagpili-pili sauce, pagsilip sauce, bagoong sauce, pagsilip coast bas, Cebu white dish-es including Corco Ribs, Pusit Bakas, Bagnet Gangis, Fusions Kinilaw Corco Mango dessert.

The restaurant claims near the country's King King for 2007, winning all three major categories in the annual competition in three categories one.

FROM LEFT Sec. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, model actress Henry Camiphon, former Mr. Pilipinas Reinier Flamenia with Corco Grille's COO Kenneth Ayala

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Brenda G. Velarde

H'wood high

8 Pinoys get rare crash course in filmmaking

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT WAS A LOT LIKE A CRASH course on Hollywood movie production.

The eight Filipino contestants in the new reality show "Hollywood Best Camp" got the rare chance to watch an actual movie set in Los Angeles, where Kacy Andrews, CEO of Digital Entertainment, a Cebu-based 3D production firm.

"Hollywood Boot Camp," which began airing Aug. 17 on QTV, gives viewers a peek into the making of the Hollywood horror flick, "Midnight Movie."

Andrews explains: "The reality show piggybacks on the film while it's being shot. Each week, the contestants work on different departments."

The Pinoys—Apple Pardito, Steven Trinidad, Dexter Ignacio, Mitzi Ethegan, Chera Ardo, Michael Vasquez, Randy Mobo and Shereen Sayed—entered not a few differences between hard technology to work with.

"One puzzled and [he] he job of an art director in Hollywood is more specialized," Andrews says. "In the Philippines, an art director does so many things."

The eight Pinoys were in LA from May 8 to June 4. There, they worked as production assistants on the set of "Midnight Movie," a new Hollywood project, which is currently in post-production in Cebu.

KACY ANDREWS

JACK MESSIT

HOLLYWOOD Boot Camp finalists at the Hollywood set of "Midnight Movie." Standing (L-R): Apple Pardito, Randy Mobo, Dexter Ignacio and Alexis Trinidad. Behind them are (L-R) Shereen Sayed, Mitzi Ethegan, Michael Vasquez and Chera Ardo.

"The Pinoys integrated so well onsite we don't hardly noticed them," notes Jack Messit, "Midnight" director.

When the idea of doing a reality show on "Indie film came up, Messit was "nervous." But in the time-tested saying progressed, he says that the experiment was working "wonderfully."

Jack Messit: "The contestants were all unique [a talented, and remained consistently eager and happy about working in the knowledge."

The top winners will bring home either $10,000 in cash or a film package worth $50,000. Andrews explains, "The winner doesn't have to direct a film or produce a director and act as producer or writer."

"Boot camp" is no close of the Steven Spielberg-Mark Burnett reality show "On the Lot." Andrews insists. While "On the Lot" is a search for the next Orge Nakashima for "Nanking," Mark Boot Camp" focuses on the process of filmmaking, the says.

YOUR PROBLEM:
LIMP, THINNING HAIR

SVENSON'S HAIRLOSS Rx
Ultra-Lush Volumizer Treatment

Create your hair against weight and exhilarating! Svenson can turn your hair from limp and draining to lush and thick with Ultra-Lush Volumizer Treatment. It is specially formulated to revive every strand and produce thicker, stronger-growing hair. A fuller and lush look can be restored — your hair's true "crowning glory!"

You don't have to suffer from hairloss. Take the Svenson solution for your thinning hair and look forward to many luscious and lustrous. Call Svenson for a FREE hair and scalp check-up.

WOMEN'S Svenson

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

Cherry Pie Best Actress in Delhi

CHERRY PIE PICACHE has come considerable international film debut award, this time for the digital film "Every Child," at the 9th Osian's Cinefan Festival of Asian and Arab Cinema in New Delhi, India.

She last portrayed the character of Norma, the comatose mother, Cherry Pie Picache has delivered a performance that has managed to make even a fictional story look very much like a slice of life," noted many festival jurors.

CHERRY PIE PICACHE

The award to Picache's first for "Every Child," which premiered at the Berlinale's Panorama section of the Cannes International Film Festival in France.

Gina Pareño won the same award last year for the title role in Jeffrey Jeturian's "Rakenrol," Guillermo Lutin won for Manuel Rivera-Sotto's "Jaguar in Binalonan" in 2004.

Marinel R. Cruz

"OSS 117 is BETTER THAN 007."
—French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel

"One of the MOST ENTERTAINING FILMS of the year. The premiere night crowd was beyond appreciative, LAUGHING SO HARD at one joke, they very nearly missed the next."

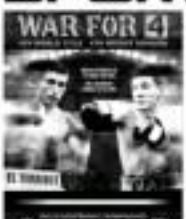
"It's damned FUNNY. The laughs go from smirks to soda spritters. Joy has been in short supply at the movies lately and OSS 117 was a SWEET DELIGHT."

The British have JAMES BOND, AUSTIN POWERS and JOHNNY ENGLISH. The French only need one man to finish the job.

movietime SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie

SPORTSTIME



Watch the
World Lightweight Championship
fistfight between

MORALES and DIAZ

LIVE VIA SATELLITE
no commercial breaks!

Undercard Fights:

Rodel Mayol vs. Ulises Solis

Bernabe Concepcion vs. Gabriel Elizondo

August 5 (Sunday) 10:00 p.m.

Tickets: Mall of Asia, Makati, Megamall, North EDSA, Sta. Mesa, San Lazaro, Southmall, Pasig

P 500 Reserved Seats / P 300 (Guaranteed Seats)

Tickets not available

MORALES vs DIAZ

MOVIE MARKS

IMAX

HARRY POTTER 5
LICENSE TO WED
TRANSFORMERS
THE SIMPSONS
HARRY POTTER 5
DIDUA
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)

PRINCESS CINEMA

CODE 117
BAKEKOTOKU
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)

PRINCESS CINEMA

CODE 117
BAKEKOTOKU
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)

DIRECTOR'S CLUB

Bulong sa Dilim (Whisper of the Dark)

PRINCESS CINEMA

RATATOUILLE
CHICKEN LITTLE
LICENSE TO WED
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)

DIRECTOR'S CLUB

HARRY POTTER 5
LICENSE TO WED
THE SIMPSONS
BLIND DATING
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
RATATOUILLE
DIDUA
(SINKING OF JAPAN
CODE HARD 4
CODE 117
TRANSFORMERS
HARRY POTTER 5

GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1

(KIDS, FIRST CLASSICS)
RATATOUILLE
HARRY POTTER 5
TRANSFORMERS
CODE 117
LICENSE TO WED
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
DIDUA
THE SIMPSONS
DIDUA
CODE HARD 4
(SINKING OF JAPAN)

GREENBELT 2 CINEMA 2

(KIDS, FIRST CLASSICS)
RATATOUILLE
HARRY POTTER 5
TRANSFORMERS
CODE 117
LICENSE TO WED
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
DIDUA
THE SIMPSONS
DIDUA
CODE HARD 4
(SINKING OF JAPAN)

GREENBELT 3 CINEMA 3

(KIDS, FIRST CLASSICS)
RATATOUILLE
HARRY POTTER 5
TRANSFORMERS
RATATOUILLE
LICENSE TO WED
DIDUA
CODE 117
CODE HARD 4
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
THE SIMPSONS
DIDUA
(SINKING OF JAPAN)

GREENBELT 4 CINEMA 4

(KIDS, FIRST CLASSICS)
THE SIMPSONS
DIDUA
LICENSE TO WED
RATATOUILLE
TRANSFORMERS
CODE 117
(LICENSE TO WED)
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
DIDUA
THE SIMPSONS
DIDUA
CODE HARD 4
(SINKING OF JAPAN)

GREENBELT 5 CINEMA 5

(KIDS, FIRST CLASSICS)
(SINKING OF JAPAN)
TRANSFORMERS
LICENSE TO WED
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
RATATOUILLE
HARRY POTTER 5
THE SIMPSONS
CODE HARD 4
DIDUA
(VACANCY
(BLIND DATING)
CODE 117
HARRY POTTER 5
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
(ROBOSAPIEN
RATATOUILLE
DIDUA

GREENBELT CINEMA

(WHITE NOISE
HARRY POTTER 5
DIDUA
RATATOUILLE
DIDUA
(SINKING OF JAPAN
LICENSE TO WED)

GREENBELT 2 CINEMA

RATATOUILLE
(SINKING OF JAPAN
HARRY POTTER 5
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
LICENSE TO WED)
DIDUA

GREENBELT 3 CINEMA

RATATOUILLE
(SINKING OF JAPAN
HARRY POTTER 5
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
LICENSE TO WED)
DIDUA

GREENBELT 4 CINEMA

(THE SIMPSONS)
(SINKING OF JAPAN)
RATATOUILLE
LICENSE TO WED)
DIDUA
HARRY POTTER 5
TRANSFORMERS
CODE HARD 4
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
(WHITE NOISE)
RATATOUILLE

GREENBELT 5 CINEMA

(HARRY POTTER 5)
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
DIDUA
(IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
(WHITE NOISE)
RATATOUILLE

GREENBELT CINEMA

RATATOUILLE
(NEXT
(CONDEMNED)
DIDUA

GREENBELT 2 CINEMA

(KIDS)
RATATOUILLE
(NEXT
HARRY POTTER 5
DIDUA
(THE INVISIBLES
RATATOUILLE
HARRY POTTER 5

GREENBELT 3 CINEMA

(LICENSE TO WED)
DIDUA
(SINKING OF JAPAN
RATATOUILLE

GREENBELT 4 CINEMA

RATATOUILLE
HARRY POTTER 5
DIDUA
(ROBOSAPIEN)

GREENBELT 5 CINEMA

(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
(TRANSFORMERS)
HARRY POTTER 5
RATATOUILLE
(IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
(2D/3D, MIO-AMA HD SOUND)
(ROBOSAPIEN)
DIDUA
(WHITE NOISE)
RATATOUILLE
HARRY POTTER 5
(NEXT
DIDUA

Now showing exclusively at the following
SM Cinema branches:

Cebu, Clark, Davao, Fairview, Mall of Asia, Manila, Megamall,
North EDSA, Sta. Mesa, San Lazaro, Southmall, Pampanga

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIE SCHEDULES POSTED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 HARRY POTTER 5 • 3-D	6 LICENSE to WED
2 DIDUA	7 CASA
3 RATATOUILLE	8 indezline: SNATS
4 SINKING of JAPAN	9 DIE HARD 4
5 CSS 117	10 THE SIMPSONS

MIKE DAGNALAN'S

iSNATS

August 1 to 31

Exclusive @ IndieSine, Robinsons Galleria

ERMITA

1 CSS 117	
2 DIDUA	5 HARRY POTTER 5 THE SIMPSONS
3 LICENSE to WED	6 CASA
4 SINKING of JAPAN	7 RATATOUILLE

METRO EAST

1 RATATOUILLE	5 CASA
2 HARRY POTTER 5	6 LICENSE to WED
3 THE SIMPSONS	7 SINKING of JAPAN
4 CSS 117	8 DIDUA

NOVALICHES

1 HARRY POTTER 5	4 CASA
2 LICENSE to WED	5 RATATOUILLE
3 DIDUA	6 THE SIMPSONS

PIONEER

1 LICENSE to WED	3 DIDUA
2 CSS 117	4 SINKING of JAPAN

STA. ROSA

1 DIDUA	
2 RATATOUILLE	
3 BUG	
4 HARRY POTTER 5	

LIPA

1 DIDUA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 WILDERNESS
4 BUG
5 BORDERTOWN

DASMARINAS

1 DIDUA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 CASA
4 NEXT
5 BORDERTOWN

IMUS

1 DIDUA
2 CASA
3 LICENSED to WED
4 BLIND DATING
5 RATATOUILLE
6 HARRY POTTER 5

ANGELES

1 DIDUA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 FRACTURE
4 PLANET TERROR

TARLAC

1 DIDUA
2 NEXT
3 THE CONDEMNED

STARMILLS

1 RATATOUILLE	4 PLANET TERROR
2 DIDUA	5 BUG
3 HARRY POTTER 5	6 IN THE LAND of WOMEN

BACOLOD

1 DIDUA	
2 RATATOUILLE	
3 HARRY POTTER 5	
4 FRACTURE	
5 RESERVE	
6 NEXT	

ILOILO

1 DIDUA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 NEXT
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 PLANET TERROR
6 THE SIMPSONS

Festival

Cinema One pa
tribute to direct
Joey Gosiengfi

By Marlest B. Cruz

Today's dead

Tomorrow

Aug. 4

Aug. 5

H'wood .

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

POWER PLANT CINEMAS

ROCKWELL CENTER MAKATI TEL. 888-[illegible]

ONE 111 P170	THE SIMPSONS MOVIE P170	RATATOUILLE P170
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX P170	KINGDOM OF JAPAN P170	LICENSE TO WED P170

PRICES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FINALISTS (clockwise, from left) Mixed Colvington, Miss Philippines and Earth Jessica Sanchez, Miss Philippines Earth 2007 Maricris Nicole Asperin and Miss Philippines Air Shamcey Supsup-Lee

Final round for Asean Ikon music idol

THE SEARCH FOR THE Asean Ikon, a 10-member team—Malaysians, Indonesians and Filipinos—music competition goes into the homestretch as the Philippine leg holds its final concert on Saturday, Aug. 5, at Le Pavillon, Ekazegard Boulevard, Double Towers, Pasay City. (Also telecast live on IBC-13 at 7 p.m.)

Neil Gonzaga, Jolianne Mae Sibuglin, Mariel and Bill compete in the Solitaire category.

Chrome, Kids, Ghetto, Spongecycle, Tear Pads and The Down are the contenders in the Rock division.

The winning singer and band qualify for the grand finals on Aug. 12 in Kuala Lumpur.

Fans are invited to vote for their favorite soloists and bands by texting IKON<space>name's acronym<space>entry's letter or first word to 2881.

Sam Milby seen with American girl in Bohol

I TOOK THE SAME FLIGHT TO Bohol that Sam Milby did, along with Jojo Alejandro, Robert Seña, Candy Pangilinan and Lee Meriano. I was invited by Tagbilaran Mayor Dan Lim to grace the 60th birthday of Dana Gothard, a Cebuano who married a prom Bohol-an, Lee.

Rano is well-loved by the people of Bohol. His birthday is also a holiday, so it was a belated holiday in Chocolate Hills country.

While waiting in the van to proceed to our hotel, Robert, Jojo and I were trying to figure out if the "Sam" with Ann was Sam Bo or just a special guest. We were seated in another van next to ours when we saw the girl cuddling Sam's bare arm like his hand was coming on her shoulder.

Maybe they were just living it up on vacation since Sam seems on the maintaining type. They were not seated together on the plane.

Perhaps it's just the Asean charm of Bohol that brought out the awareness in them.

A Love Story'

Had an engaging talk with my "Tokyo Love" Direk Maryo J. de los Reyes about his movie that the released story moments in Love Story." It's top-billed by actor-acquired Aga Muhlach, Rustad Asuncion and Angelica Panganiban.

"The three take all the dimensions of being a wife and a mistress and what the two can learn from each other," says Direk. "Aga and Maxie didn't need any motivation for their scenes. They have both matured in their acting, angeles has great potential. She has no qualms about going against her image if necessary."

Knowing how all-heart Maryo J. is, I'm sure "Love Story" will end all love scenes.

Bitter pill

Could it be true that Pia Guanzon experienced the gamut of Bourbonesque emotions for appearing on her "Q" with Pia Strike, which they co-hosted and hosted in the press?

Dolly Wood

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Singing contest

Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall's very The Rock Road present Voices of DWM, a singing contest for amateur singers.

Deadline for submission of entry forms, which are available at the promo department of the mall, is tomorrow. Audition is on Aug 4.

The candidates may use a song, use tape or CD during the screening. For details, call 661-9401 loc. 109.

DPM... Oh Please Direct your songs!

Miss Ugly (No More)

The search for Miss Ugly (No More) a star The lucky winner (non-Filipino) will get a cash prize, a session for Beverly Hills $750 to compete all women on there who perceive themselves as "ugly ducklings," just in the AC before the month's tournament. For info, e-mail [illegible]

Over and beyond the physical improvements after undergoing aesthetic surgical procedures, it's the self-confidence you never thought she had that makes runner-up runner for her. How she really [illegible]

E-mail: [illegible]

Eastwood City

The Members

Every Thursday, 8:00 PM
Eastwood Circle

Eastwood City

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS

LICENSE TO WED
THE SIMPSONS
RATATOUILLE
ONE 111

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

THEATRE MALL

NOW SHOWING

1 2 3 4 5

PROMENADE

NOW SHOWING

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 721-4322 LOC 136

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 RATATOUILLE	2 LICENSE TO WED	3 THE SIMPSONS	4 SHUGA
GLORIETTA 4	1 RATATOUILLE	2 SHUGA	3 THE SIMPSONS	
	4 KINGDOM OF JAPAN	5 ONE 111	6 LICENSE TO WED	7 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
GREENBELT 1	1 THE SIMPSONS	2 LICENSE TO WED		
GREENBELT 2	1 THE SIMPSONS	2 LICENSE TO WED		
	3 ONE 111	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	5 RATATOUILLE	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 LICENSE TO WED	2 THE SIMPSONS		
	3 RATATOUILLE	4 ONE 111	5 SHUGA	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 RATATOUILLE	2 THE SIMPSONS	3 WHO'S HOME 3	4 TO THE LAND OF HEROES
MARKET! MARKET!	1 SHUGA	2 KINGDOM OF JAPAN		
	3 ONE 111	4 LICENSE TO WED	5 THE SIMPSONS	
TRINOMA	1 SHUGA	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 THE SIMPSONS	4 RATATOUILLE
	5 ONE 111	6 KINGDOM OF JAPAN	7 LICENSE TO WED	

AT THE MALLS

Glorietta	"The Philippine Star's Photo Exhibit" August 2 to 4, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt	Shop & Travel at Greenbelt 1 Promo: Get a chance to win exciting prizes and a trip for two to Boracay for every P500 worth of purchases at any branch of Landmark and Rustan's. July 1 to September 30, 2007
Alabang Town Center	Manila & Food Festival at the Town Terrace Main Buffet Promo June 8 to August 5, 2007
Ayala Center Cebu	Johnny Bench August 3 to 26, 2007 at the AFSC Annex
Market! Market!	Love Has Arts August 3 to 5, 2007 at the Activity Center
Christ Light	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at SM City Clark Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 847-4710
Ayala Museum	ANIMAKIDS - a solo exhibition of metal sculptures by Kenneth Cobonpue July 5 to August 5, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 ext. 21 or e-mail museum_inquiries@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Nomo	Mechanical Action August 3 to 5, 11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm at the Activity Center Dries with Security August 10 & 11 at the Activity Center

ENJOY LOUNGE

OPENS AUGUST 8
AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

"A MASTERPIECE. I LOVED THIS MOVIE"

THE LOOKOUT

IMAGO ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

MECHANICAL ACTION

A theatrical circus performance of man-powered machines and acrobatic acts.

Glorietta Activity Center August 2-5 (11:30 am, 3 pm & 6 pm)

Greenbelt Activity Center August 8-12 (11:30 am, 3 pm & 6 pm)

Market! Market! Activity Center August 14-19 1 pm, 4 pm & 8 pm

Alabang Town Center Activity Center August 17-19 11 am, 3 pm & 6 pm

Ayala Center Cebu Cinebowl August 24-26 1 pm, 4 pm & 8 pm

glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Trinoma